TINKLE TALL TALES

BUTTERFINGERS

ONE TOON, ONE STORY, ONE-DERFULLY LONG

+ BONUS STORY

BUTTERFINGERS

THREE CHEERS FOR BUTTERFINGERS!

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EVERYONE WANTS BUTTERFINGERS...?

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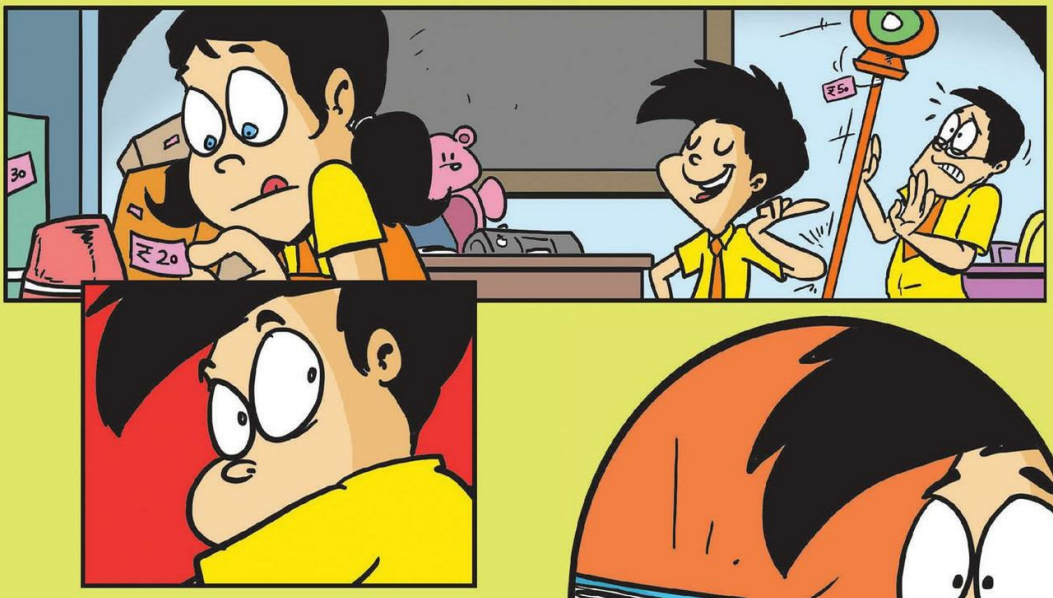
BUTTERFINGERS

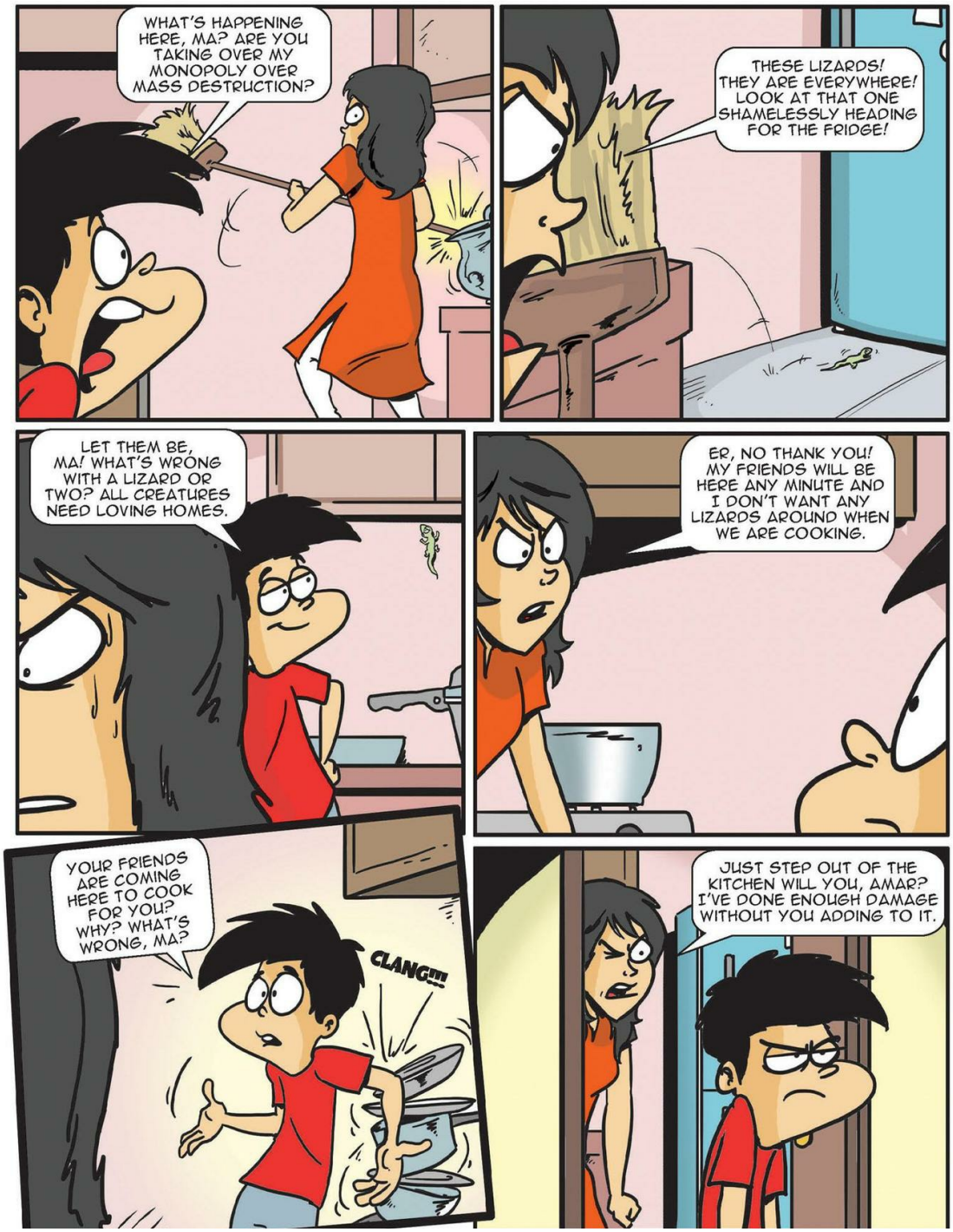
AMAR SEN, AKA, BUTTERFINGERS, A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY 14-YEAR-OLD BELIEVES IN LIVING UP TO HIS NICKNAME. THERE IS NO HUMAN, ANIMAL OR THING THAT IS SAFE WHEN BUTTER IS AROUND. CLUMSY AND BUTTERFINGERED, HE IS SURE TO DROP SOMETHING, SLIP OVER SOMETHING OR IF NOTHING ELSE, CERTAINLY BANG INTO YOU.

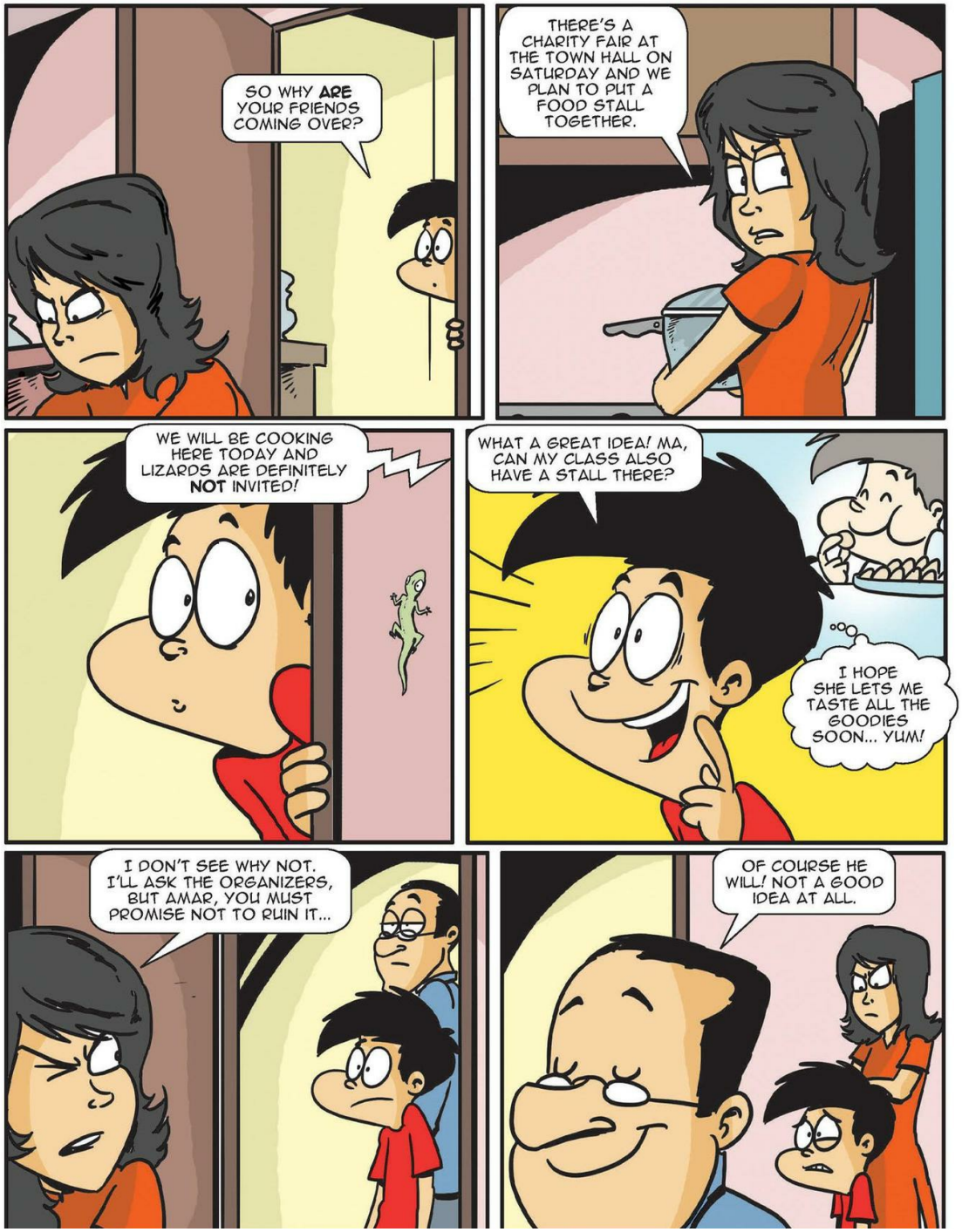
JOINING BUTTER IN HIS MAD ANTICS ARE THE MEMBERS OF HIS GANG—ERIC, KIRAN, AJAY, AND MEENU. TOGETHER, THEY OFTEN DRIVE MR. JAGMOHAN, THE PRINCIPAL OF GREEN PARK SCHOOL, UP THE WALL. WHEN BUTTER IS NOT BUSY CREATING MAYHEM, HE IS ALSO KNOWN TO ACE IN CRICKET AND OTHER SPORTS.



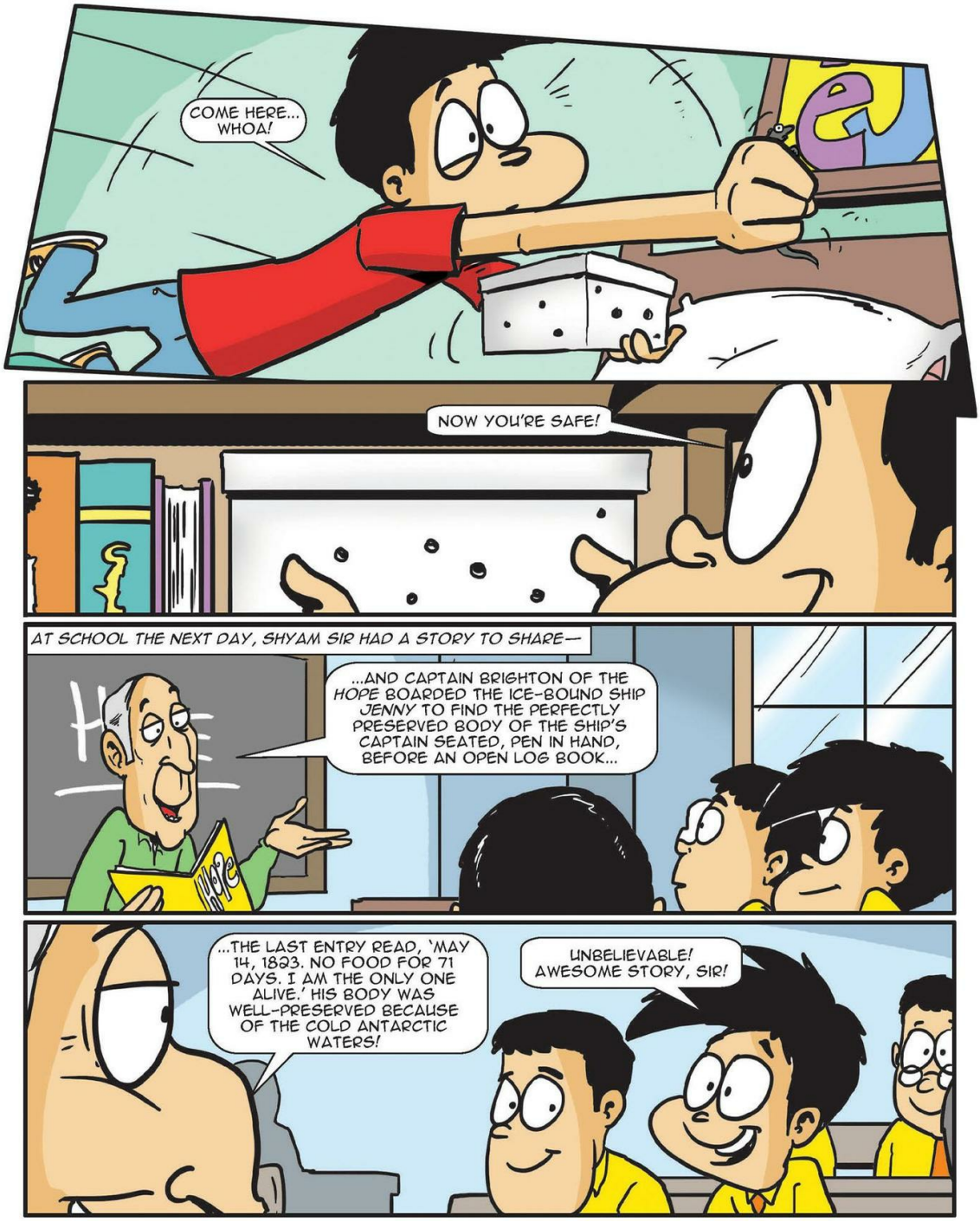
CONCEIVED AND WRITTEN BY KHYRUNNISA A., AND ILLUSTRATED BY ABHIJEET KINI, BUTTERFINGERS IS NOW COUNTED AMONG THE MOST POPULAR CHARACTERS TO APPEAR IN *TINKLE*.

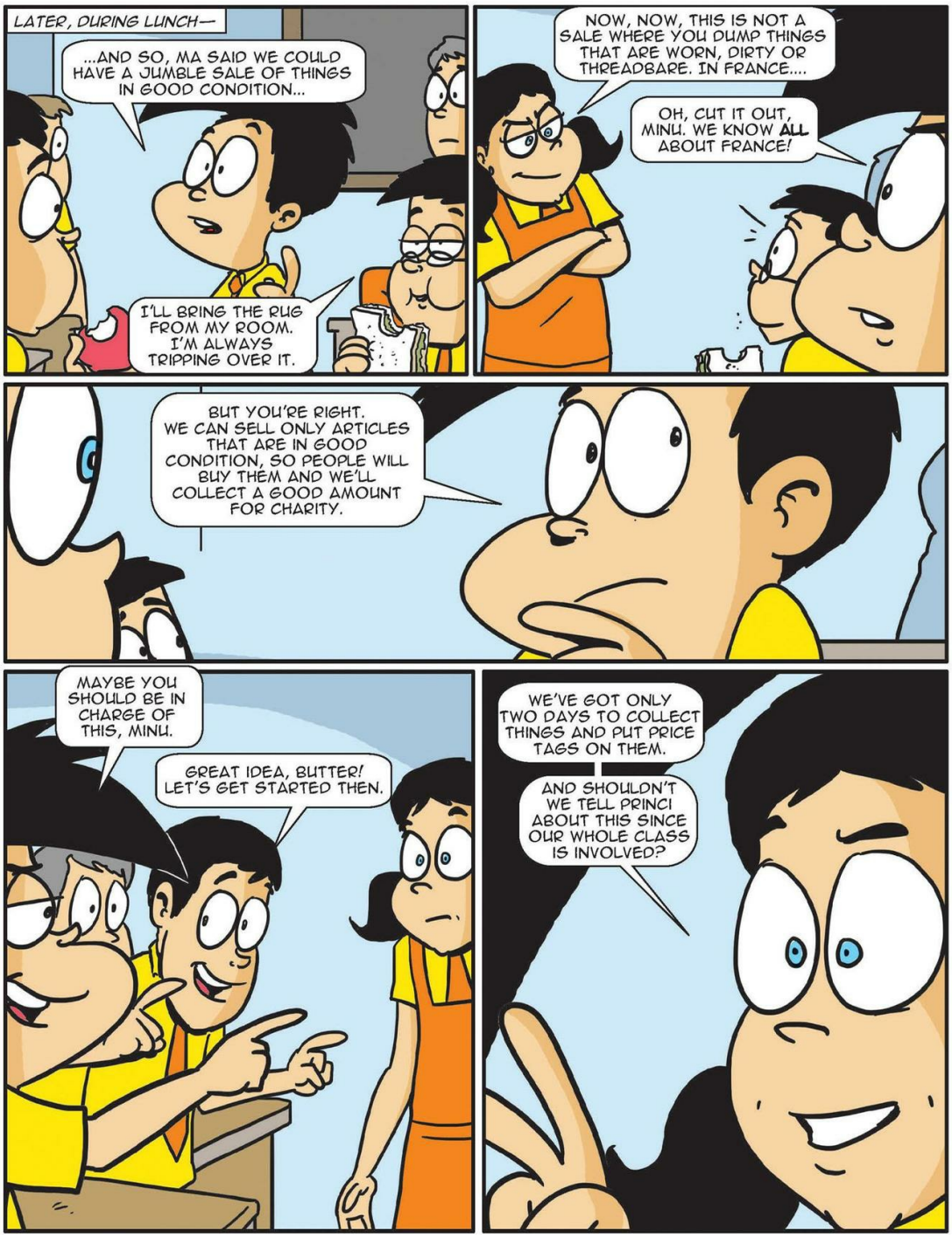
THREE CHEERS FOR BUTTERFINGERS!
CRASH!
CLANG!
BANG!

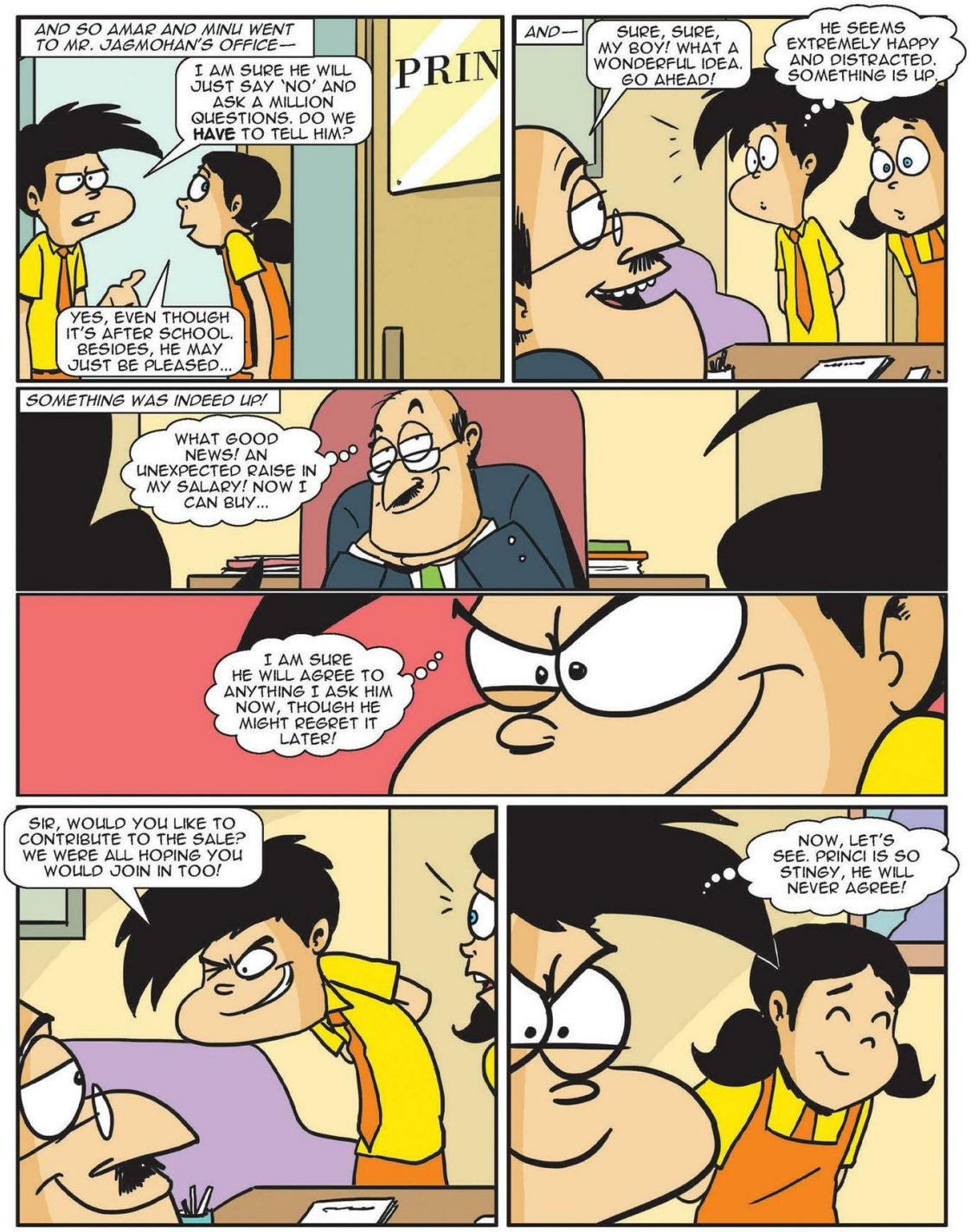

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, MA? ARE YOU TAKING OVER MY MONOPOLY OVER MASS DESTRUCTION?
THESE LIZARDS! THEY ARE EVERYWHERE! LOOK AT THAT ONE SHAMELESSLY HEADING FOR THE FRIDGE!
LET THEM BE, MA! WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LIZARD OR TWO? ALL CREATURES NEED LOVING HOMES.
ER, NO THANK YOU! MY FRIENDS WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE AND I DON'T WANT ANY LIZARDS AROUND WHEN WE ARE COOKING.
YOUR FRIENDS ARE COMING HERE TO COOK FOR YOU? WHY? WHAT'S WRONG, MA?
CLANG!!!
JUST STEP OUT OF THE KITCHEN WILL YOU, AMAR? I'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE WITHOUT YOU ADDING TO IT.

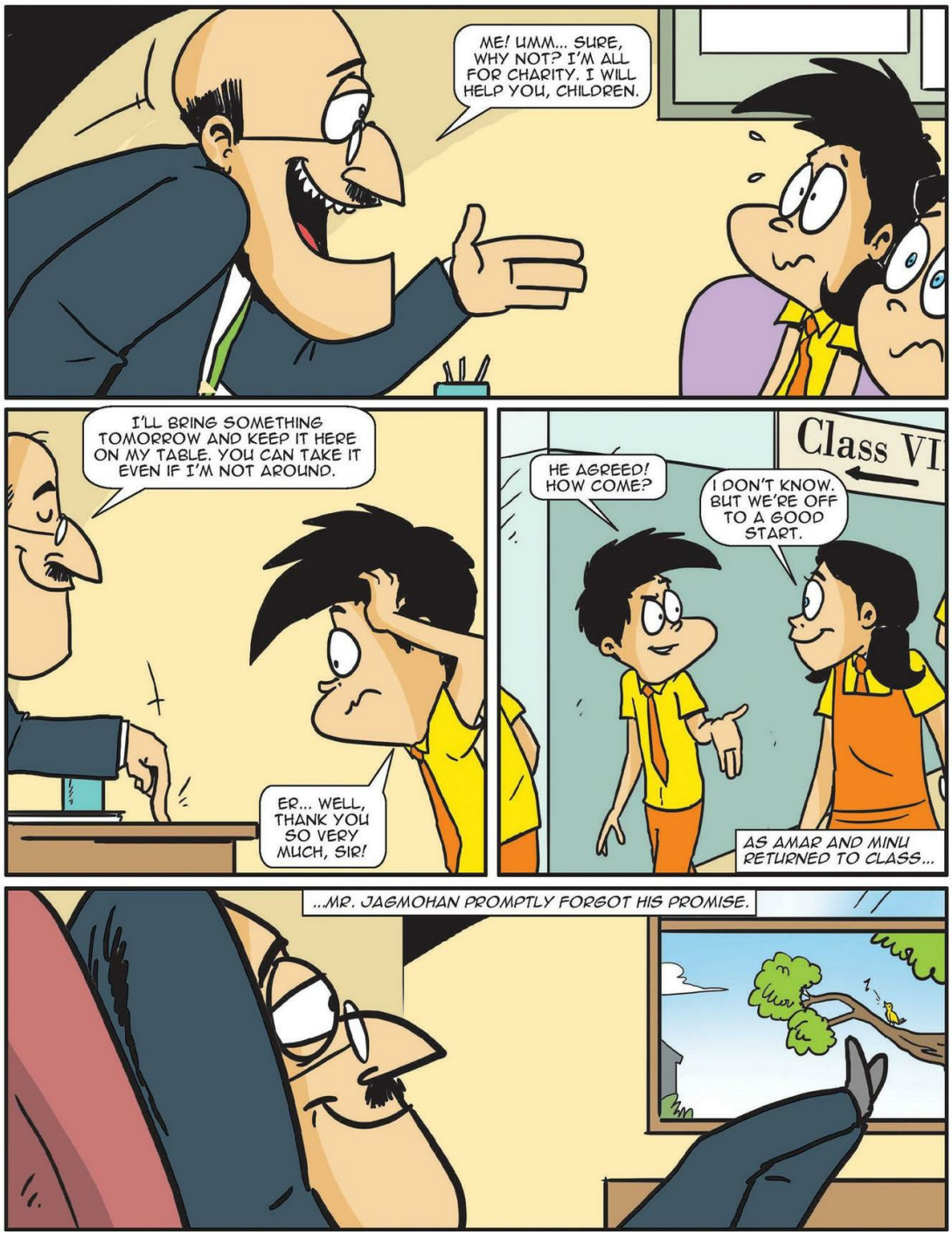

SO WHY ARE YOUR FRIENDS COMING OVER?
THERE'S A CHARITY FAIR AT THE TOWN HALL ON SATURDAY AND WE PLAN TO PUT A FOOD STALL TOGETHER.
WE WILL BE COOKING HERE TODAY AND LIZARDS ARE DEFINITELY NOT INVITED!
WHAT A GREAT IDEA! MA, CAN MY CLASS ALSO HAVE A STALL THERE?
I HOPE SHE LETS ME TASTE ALL THE GOODIES SOON... YUM!
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT. I'LL ASK THE ORGANIZERS, BUT AMAR, YOU MUST PROMISE NOT TO RUIN IT...
OF COURSE HE WILL! NOT A GOOD IDEA AT ALL.

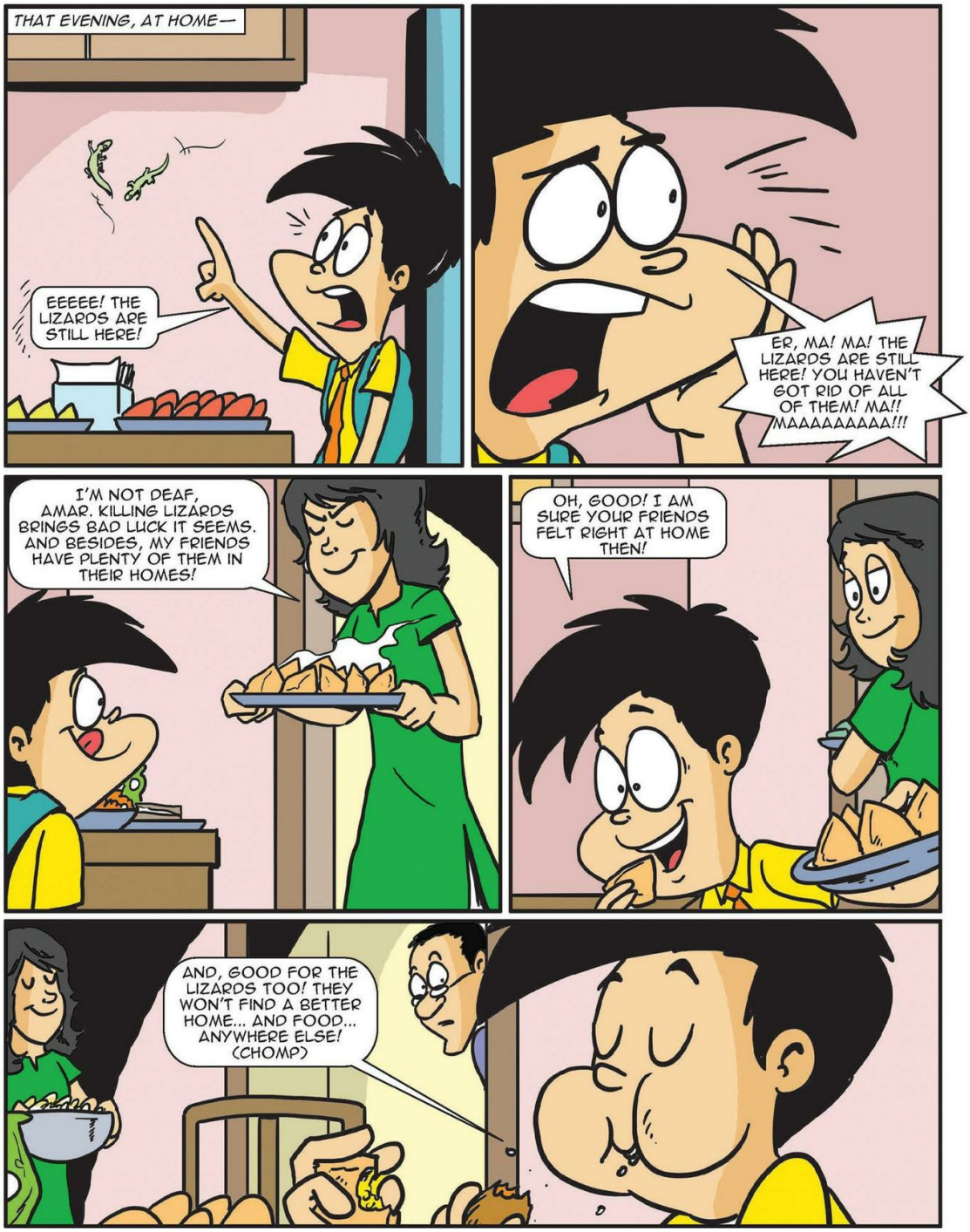
NO, I WON'T!
BUT WHAT KIND OF A STALL CAN WE PUT UP?
HOW ABOUT A JUMBLE SALE?
SOUNDS COOL, BUT WHAT'S THAT?
POSSIBLY THE ONLY THINGS SAFE FROM YOU.
WELL, A JUMBLE SALE IS A SALE OF SECOND-HAND THINGS THAT ARE IN GOOD CONDITION .
HMPH! SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA, MOM. I'LL DISCUSS THIS WITH MY CLASS TOMORROW. WHAT *FUN* THIS WILL BE!
YES-YES, DO THAT! BUT NOW LET ME GET EVERY LIZARD **OUT** OF THIS HOUSE.
BUT AMAR DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ANYTHING TO CHANCE...
OH NO! I'D BETTER HIDE BLACK BEAUTY.
THERE'S A TERMINATOR OUT THERE, BLACK BEAUTY, BUT DON'T WORRY. I WILL PROTECT YOU!
BLACK BEAUTY WAS AMAR'S PET LIZARD THAT HAD ESCAPED MRS. SEN'S NOTICE SO FAR.


COME HERE... WHOA!
NOW YOU'RE SAFE!
AT SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY, SHYAM SIR HAD A STORY TO SHARE—
...AND CAPTAIN BRIGHTON OF THE *HOPE* BOARDED THE ICE-BOUND SHIP *JENNY* TO FIND THE PERFECTLY PRESERVED BODY OF THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN SEATED, PEN IN HAND, BEFORE AN OPEN LOG BOOK...
...THE LAST ENTRY READ, 'MAY 14, 1893. NO FOOD FOR 71 DAYS. I AM THE ONLY ONE ALIVE.' HIS BODY WAS WELL-PRESERVED BECAUSE OF THE COLD ANTARCTIC WATERS!
UNBELIEVABLE! AWESOME STORY, SIR!

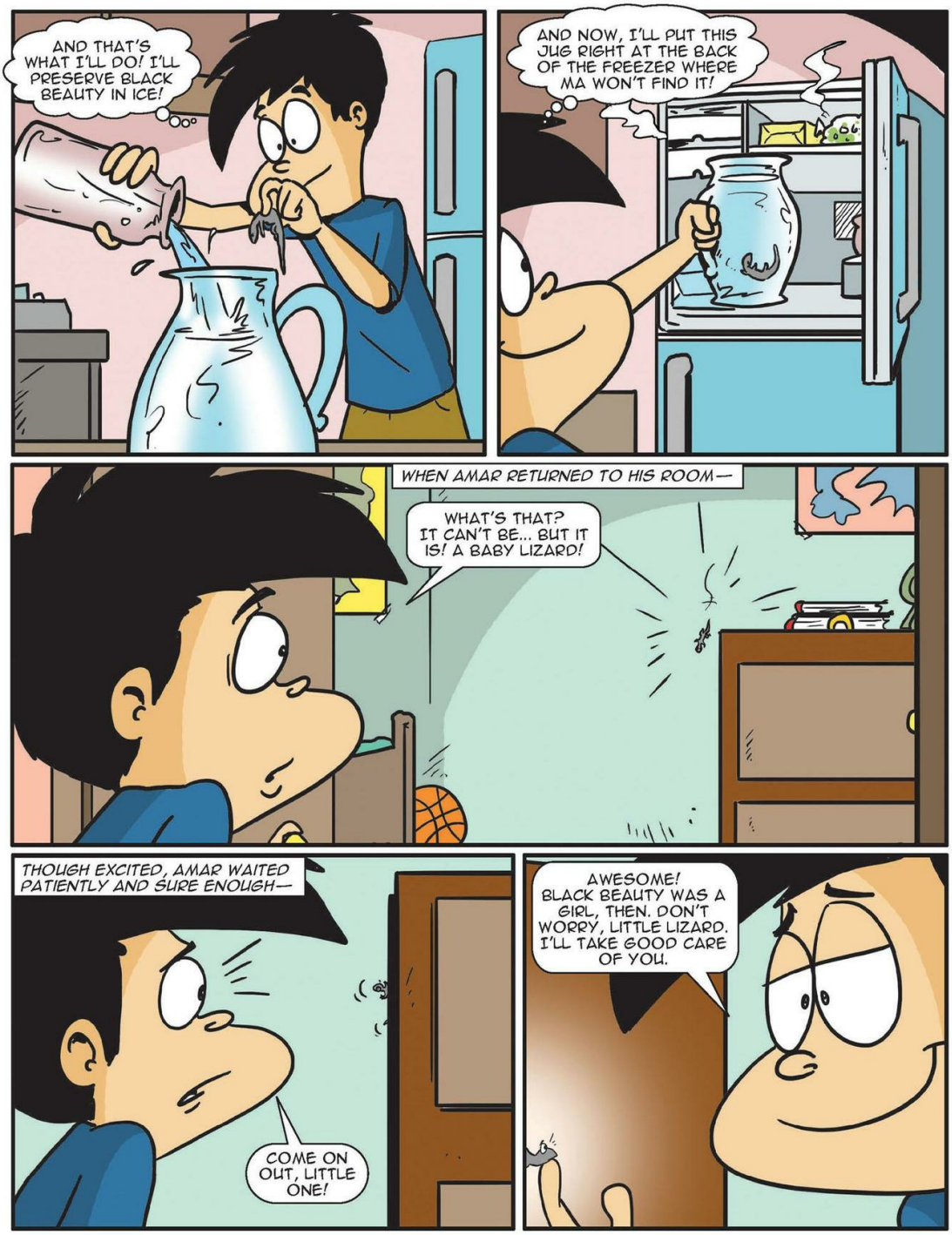

LATER, DURING LUNCH—
...AND SO, MA SAID WE COULD HAVE A JUMBLE SALE OF THINGS IN GOOD CONDITION...
I'LL BRING THE RUG FROM MY ROOM. I'M ALWAYS TRIPPING OVER IT.
NOW, NOW, THIS IS NOT A SALE WHERE YOU DUMP THINGS THAT ARE WORN, DIRTY OR THREADBARE. IN FRANCE....
OH, CUT IT OUT, MINU. WE KNOW ALL ABOUT FRANCE!
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. WE CAN SELL ONLY ARTICLES THAT ARE IN GOOD CONDITION, SO PEOPLE WILL BUY THEM AND WE'LL COLLECT A GOOD AMOUNT FOR CHARITY.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THIS, MINU.
GREAT IDEA, BUTTER! LET'S GET STARTED THEN.
WE'VE GOT ONLY TWO DAYS TO COLLECT THINGS AND PUT PRICE TAGS ON THEM.
AND SHOULDN'T WE TELL PRINCI ABOUT THIS SINCE OUR WHOLE CLASS IS INVOLVED?

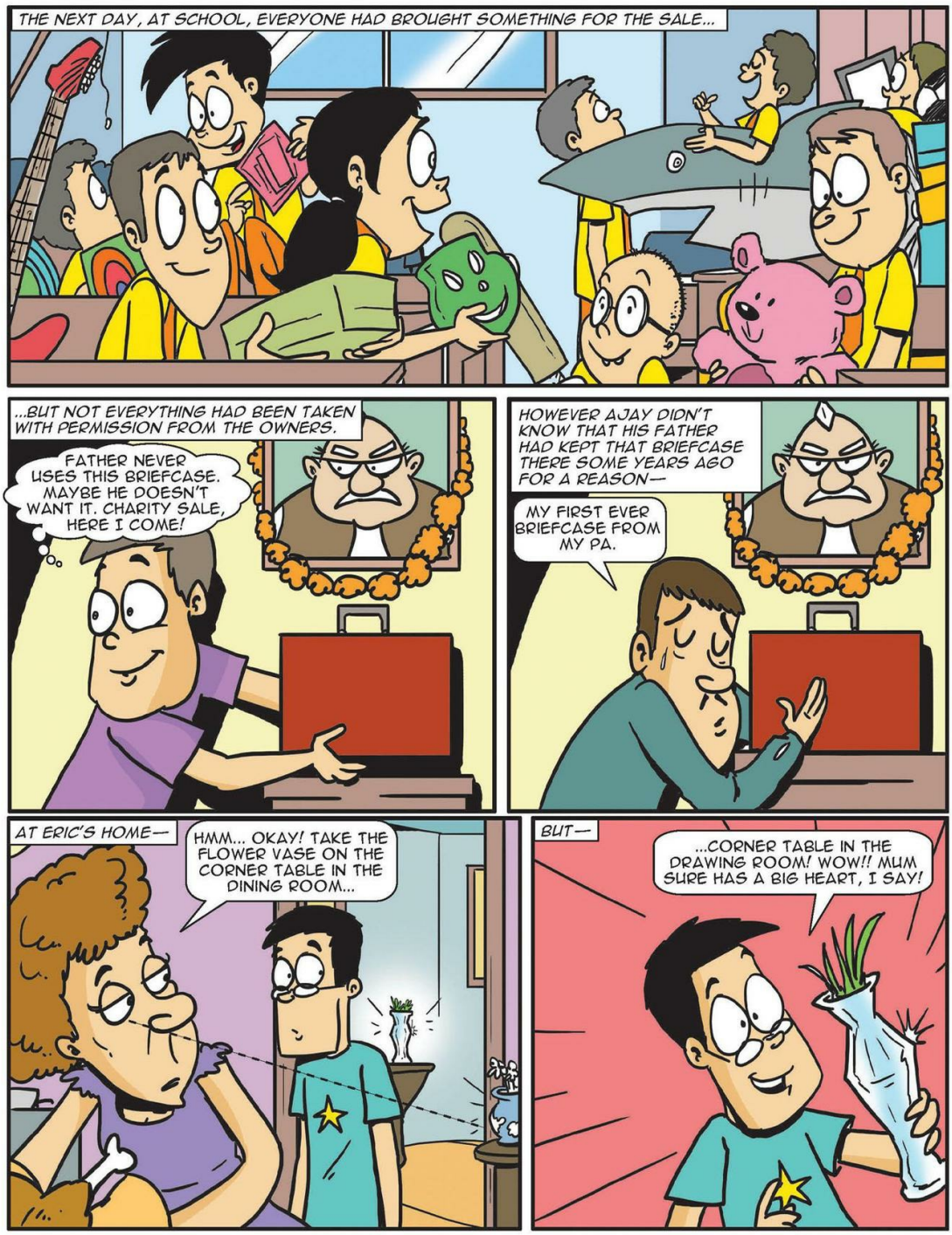

AND SO AMAR AND MINU WENT TO MR. JAGMOHAN'S OFFICE—
I AM SURE HE WILL JUST SAY 'NO' AND ASK A MILLION QUESTIONS. DO WE HAVE TO TELL HIM?
YES, EVEN THOUGH IT'S AFTER SCHOOL. BESIDES, HE MAY JUST BE PLEASED...
PRIN
AND—
SURE, SURE, MY BOY! WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA. GO AHEAD!
HE SEEMS EXTREMELY HAPPY AND DISTRACTED. SOMETHING IS UP.
SOMETHING WAS INDEED UP!
WHAT GOOD NEWS! AN UNEXPECTED RAISE IN MY SALARY! NOW I CAN BUY...
I AM SURE HE WILL AGREE TO ANYTHING I ASK HIM NOW, THOUGH HE MIGHT REGRET IT LATER!
SIR, WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SALE? WE WERE ALL HOPING YOU WOULD JOIN IN TOO!
NOW, LET'S SEE. PRINCI IS SO STINGY, HE WILL NEVER AGREE!

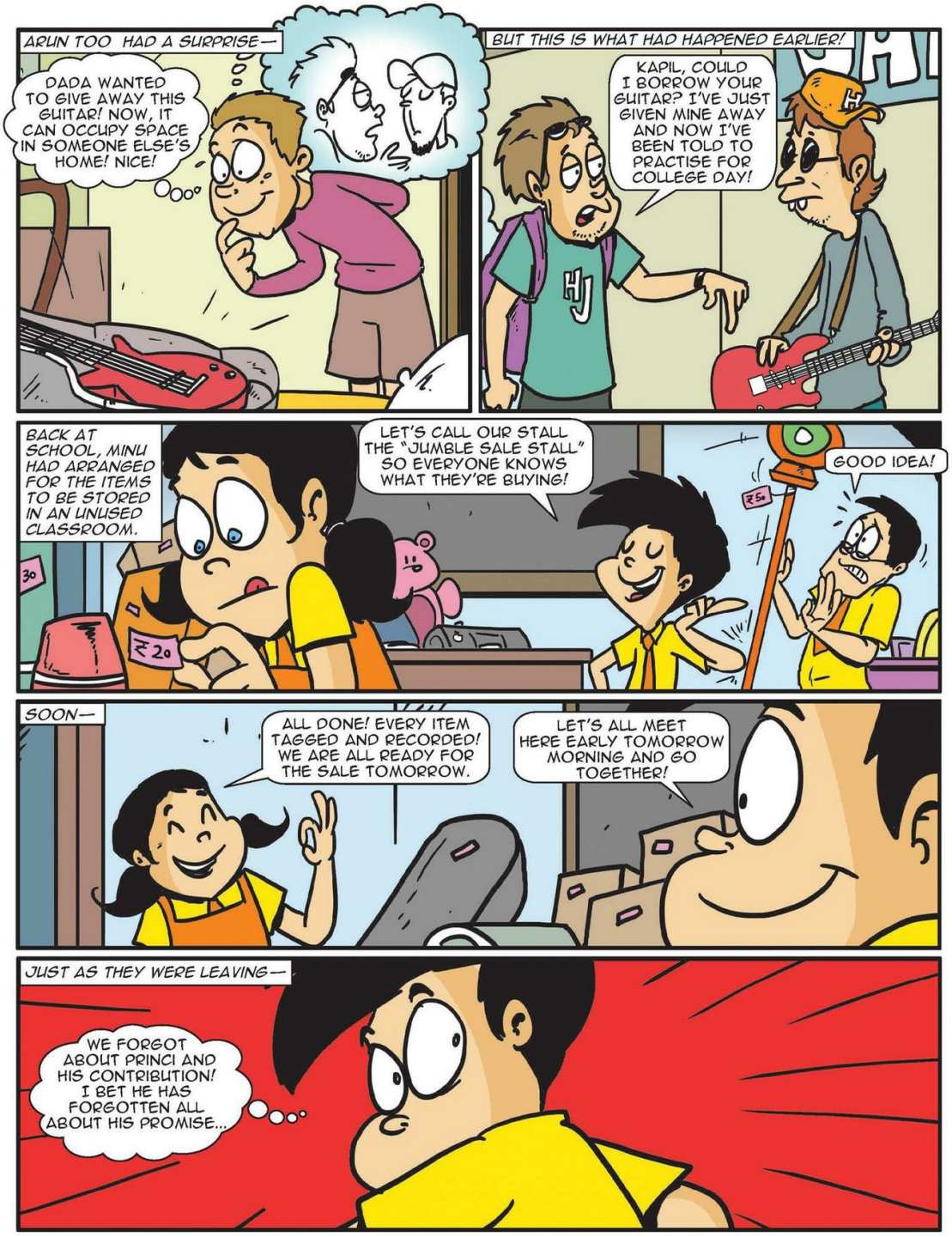

ME! UMM... SURE, WHY NOT? I'M ALL FOR CHARITY. I WILL HELP YOU, CHILDREN.
I'LL BRING SOMETHING TOMORROW AND KEEP IT HERE ON MY TABLE. YOU CAN TAKE IT EVEN IF I'M NOT AROUND.
ER... WELL, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, SIR!
Class VI
HE AGREED! HOW COME?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT WE'RE OFF TO A GOOD START.
AS AMAR AND MINU RETURNED TO CLASS...
...MR. JAGMOHAN PROMPTLY FORGOT HIS PROMISE.

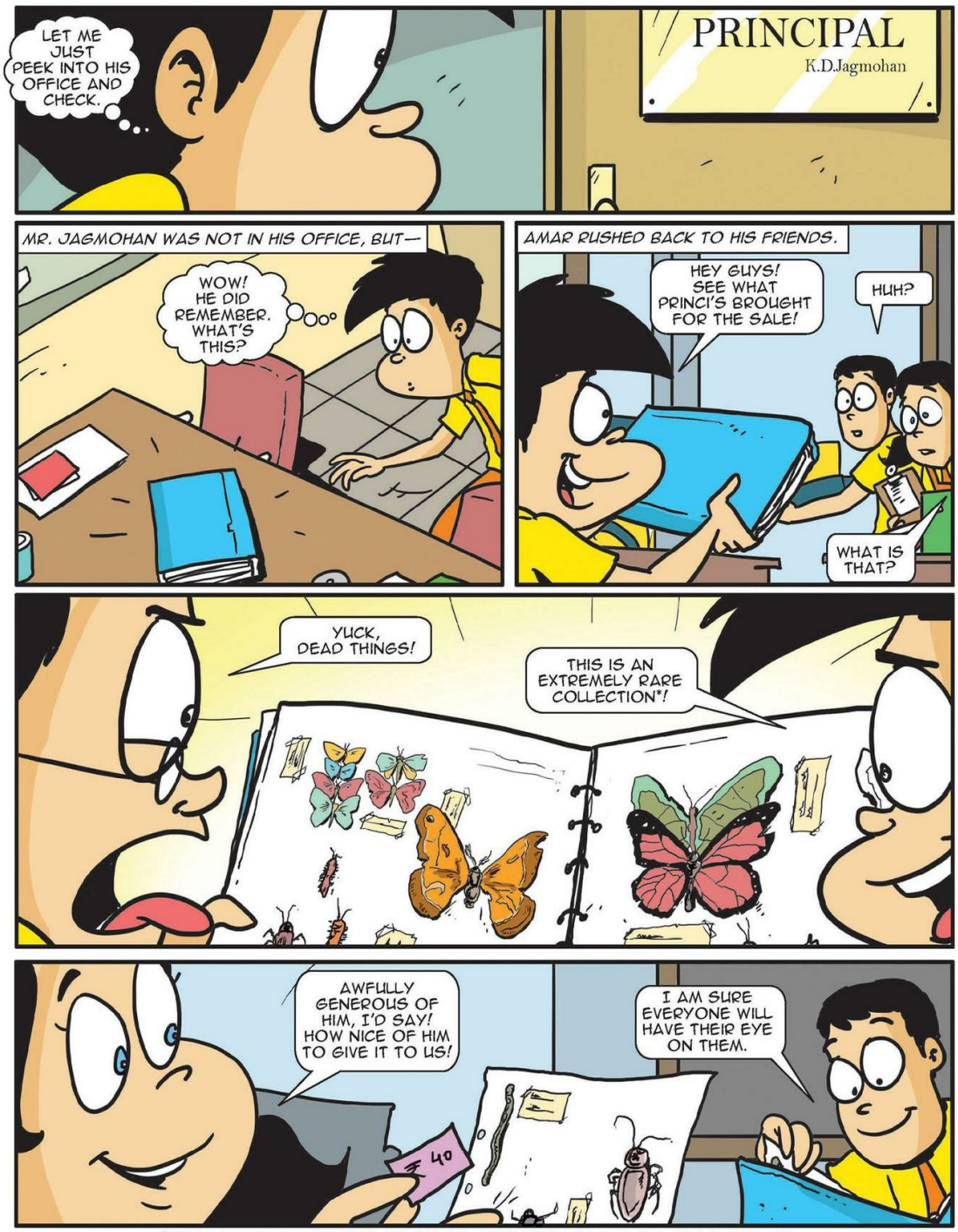

THAT EVENING, AT HOME—
EEEEE! THE LIZARDS ARE STILL HERE!
ER, MA! MA! THE LIZARDS ARE STILL HERE! YOU HAVEN'T GOT RID OF ALL OF THEM! MA!! MAAAAAAAAA!!!
I'M NOT DEAF, AMAR. KILLING LIZARDS BRINGS BAD LUCK IT SEEMS. AND BESIDES, MY FRIENDS HAVE PLENTY OF THEM IN THEIR HOMES!
OH, GOOD! I AM SURE YOUR FRIENDS FELT RIGHT AT HOME THEN!
AND, GOOD FOR THE LIZARDS TOO! THEY WON'T FIND A BETTER HOME... AND FOOD... ANYWHERE ELSE! (CHOMP)

SOON—
HEY, BLACK BEAUTY!
COME ON, WAKE UP! WE ARE FREE NOW! HEY, OLD CHAP...
IT'S DEAD! BUT HOW? I'D MADE SURE THERE WERE ENOUGH HOLES FOR IT TO BREATHE.
A GRIEF-STRICKEN AMAR WAS GOING TO BURY BLACK BEAUTY IN THE GARDEN WHEN HE REMEMBERED...
HMM...
HIS BODY WAS WELL-PRESERVED BECAUSE OF THE COLD ANTARCTIC WATERS!


AND THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO! I'LL PRESERVE BLACK BEAUTY IN ICE!
AND NOW, I'LL PUT THIS JUG RIGHT AT THE BACK OF THE FREEZER WHERE MA WON'T FIND IT!
WHEN AMAR RETURNED TO HIS ROOM—
WHAT'S THAT? IT CAN'T BE... BUT IT IS! A BABY LIZARD!
THOUGH EXCITED, AMAR WAITED PATIENTLY AND SURE ENOUGH—
COME ON OUT, LITTLE ONE!
AWESOME! BLACK BEAUTY WAS A GIRL, THEN. DON'T WORRY, LITTLE LIZARD. I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.


THE NEXT DAY, AT SCHOOL, EVERYONE HAD BROUGHT SOMETHING FOR THE SALE...
...BUT NOT EVERYTHING HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH PERMISSION FROM THE OWNERS.
FATHER NEVER USES THIS BRIEFCASE. MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT IT. CHARITY SALE, HERE I COME!
HOWEVER AJAY DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS FATHER HAD KEPT THAT BRIEFCASE THERE SOME YEARS AGO FOR A REASON—
MY FIRST EVER BRIEFCASE FROM MY PA.
AT ERIC'S HOME—
HMM... OKAY! TAKE THE FLOWER VASE ON THE CORNER TABLE IN THE DINING ROOM...
BUT—
...CORNER TABLE IN THE DRAWING ROOM! WOW!! MUM SURE HAS A BIG HEART, I SAY!

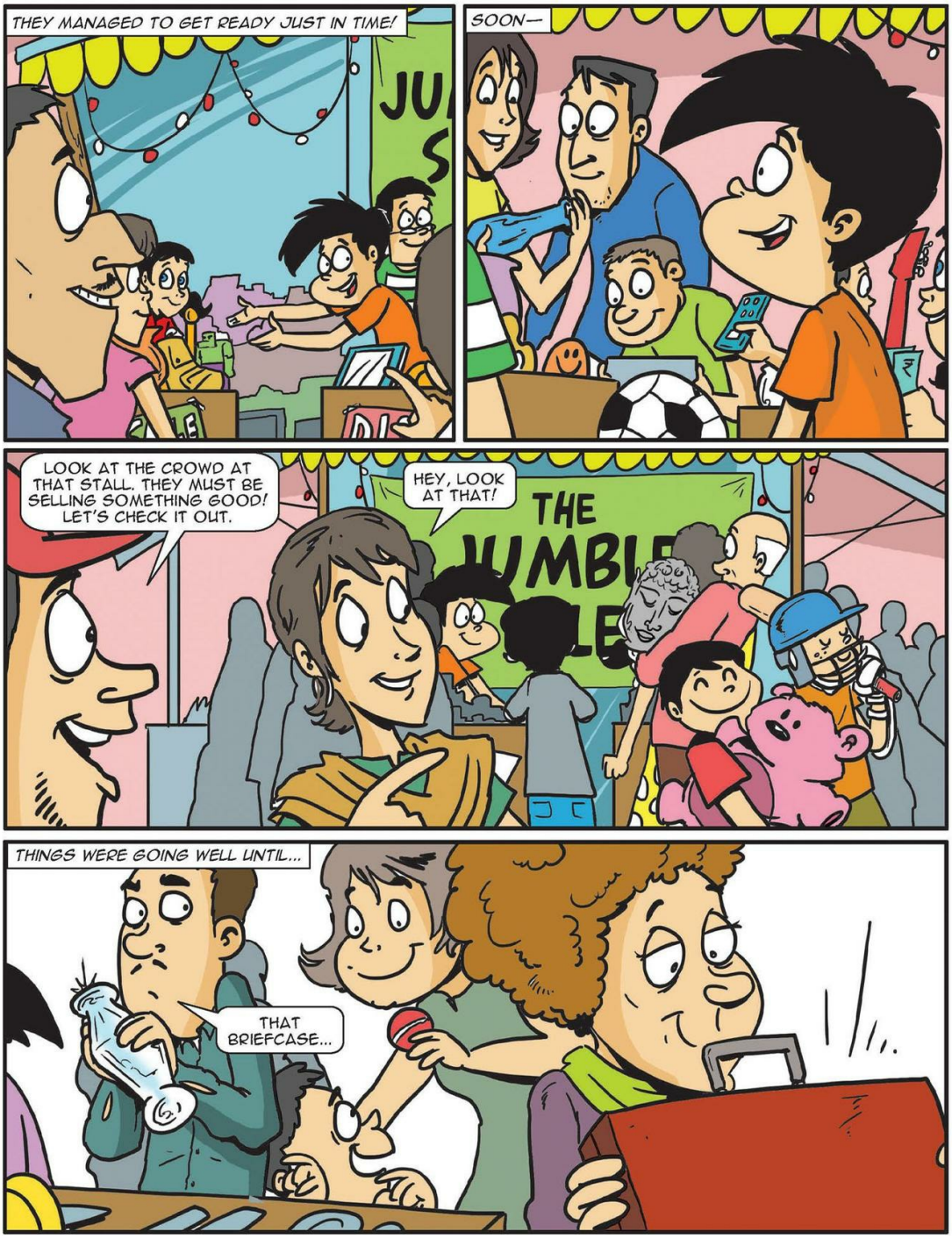

ARUN TOO HAD A SURPRISE—
DADA WANTED TO GIVE AWAY THIS GUITAR! NOW, IT CAN OCCUPY SPACE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S HOME! NICE!
BUT THIS IS WHAT HAD HAPPENED EARLIER!
KAPIL, COULD I BORROW YOUR GUITAR? I'VE JUST GIVEN MINE AWAY AND NOW I'VE BEEN TOLD TO PRACTISE FOR COLLEGE DAY!
BACK AT SCHOOL, MINU HAD ARRANGED FOR THE ITEMS TO BE STORED IN AN UNUSED CLASSROOM.
LET'S CALL OUR STALL THE "JUMBLE SALE STALL" SO EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE BUYING!
GOOD IDEA!
₹20
₹50
SOON—
ALL DONE! EVERY ITEM TAGGED AND RECORDED! WE ARE ALL READY FOR THE SALE TOMORROW.
LET'S ALL MEET HERE EARLY TOMORROW MORNING AND GO TOGETHER!
JUST AS THEY WERE LEAVING—
WE FORGOT ABOUT PRINCI AND HIS CONTRIBUTION! I BET HE HAS FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT HIS PROMISE...


LET ME JUST PEEK INTO HIS OFFICE AND CHECK.
PRINCIPAL
K.D.Jagmohan
MR. JAGMOHAN WAS NOT IN HIS OFFICE, BUT—
WOW! HE DID REMEMBER. WHAT'S THIS?
AMAR RUSHED BACK TO HIS FRIENDS.
HEY GUYS! SEE WHAT PRINCI'S BROUGHT FOR THE SALE!
HUH?
WHAT IS THAT?
YUCK, DEAD THINGS!
THIS IS AN EXTREMELY RARE COLLECTION*!
AWFULLY GENEROUS OF HIM, I'D SAY! HOW NICE OF HIM TO GIVE IT TO US!
I AM SURE EVERYONE WILL HAVE THEIR EYE ON THEM.
40

*TINKLE DOES NOT CONDONE THE ILLEGAL COLLECTION OF ANIMALS. IT IS ILLEGAL TO TRADE IN SUCH COLLECTIONS.

LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT THE FOLDER DID NOT BELONG TO MR. JAGMOHAN AT ALL. THE PREVIOUS DAY—
MANOHAR, WHAT A SURPRISE! IT'S BEEN SO LONG! DONE CHASING INSECTS AROUND THE WORLD?
HAHAHAHA, JAGGI! I'VE COME TO SHOW YOU MY COLLECTION OF RARE INSECTS!
MR. MANOHAR WAS A WORLD FAMOUS ENTOMOLOGIST* AND HERPETOLOGIST** WHO HAD BEEN TRAVELLING EXTENSIVELY.
YES, BUT FIRST, LET'S CATCH UP OVER SOME GOOD COFFEE! WE HAVE SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT!
AND THUS THE FOLDER ENDED UP BEING BAGGED AND TAGGED FOR THE SALE.
THE NEXT DAY—
THE JUMBLE SALE
DISCOUNT

*A PERSON WHO STUDIES INSECTS
**A PERSON WHO STUDIES REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

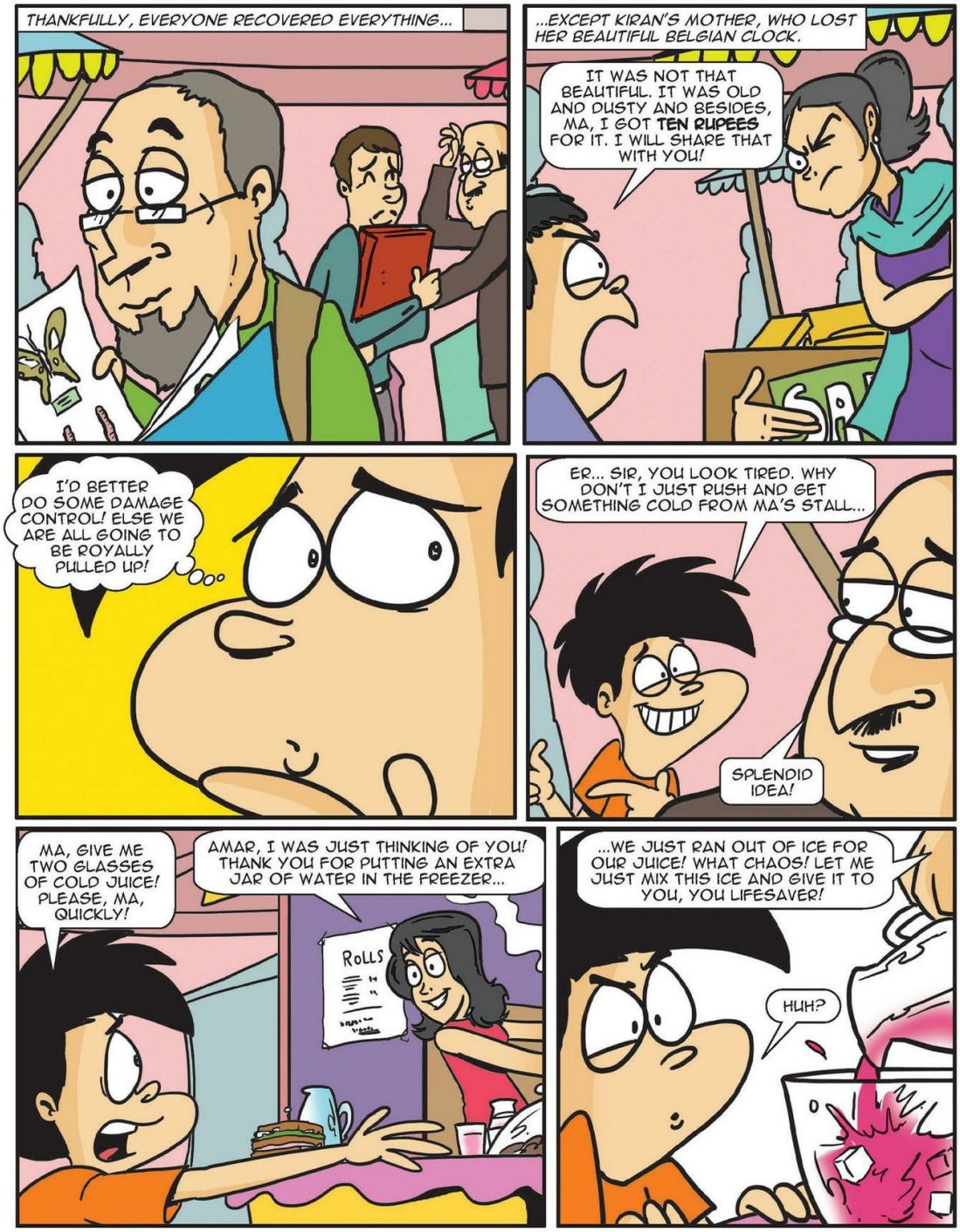

THEY MANAGED TO GET READY JUST IN TIME!
SOON—
LOOK AT THE CROWD AT THAT STALL. THEY MUST BE SELLING SOMETHING GOOD! LET'S CHECK IT OUT.
HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
THE
THINGS WERE GOING WELL UNTIL...
THAT BRIEFCASE...

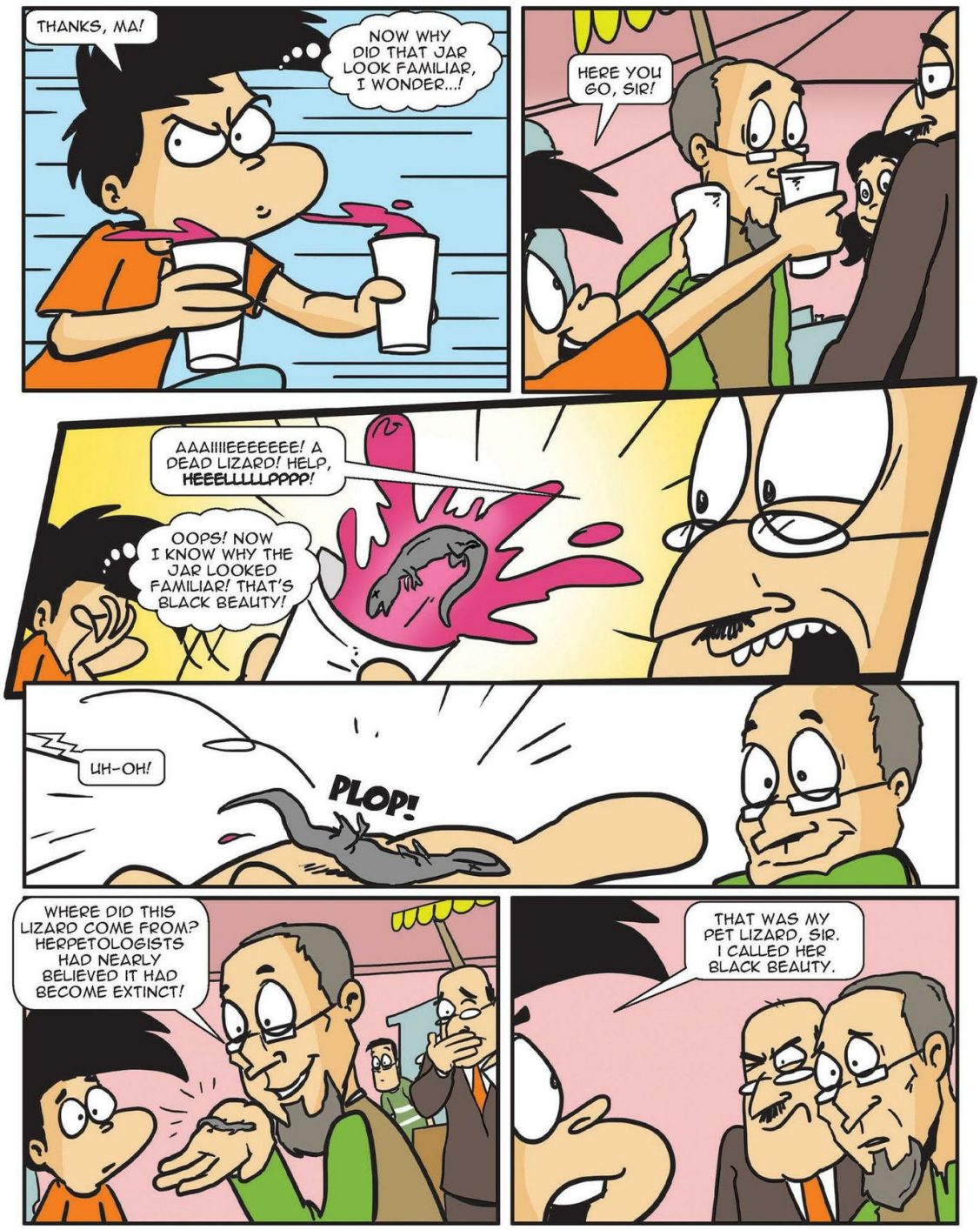
THAT LOOKS LIKE MY OLD BRIEFCASE! IT CAN'T BE! WHY, YES, IT IS! WHAT IS THAT DOING HERE?
HEY, YOU! THAT IS MINE! GIVE IT BACK **RIGHT NOW**!
EH? I BOUGHT THIS AND NOW IT IS MINE! GO BUY YOUR OWN BRIEFCASE!
MY CRYSTAL VASE! HOW? WHY?
ERICCCCCCC!
JMBLE
ALE
KAPIL'S GUITAR! ARUN, I AM GOING TO KILL YOU!

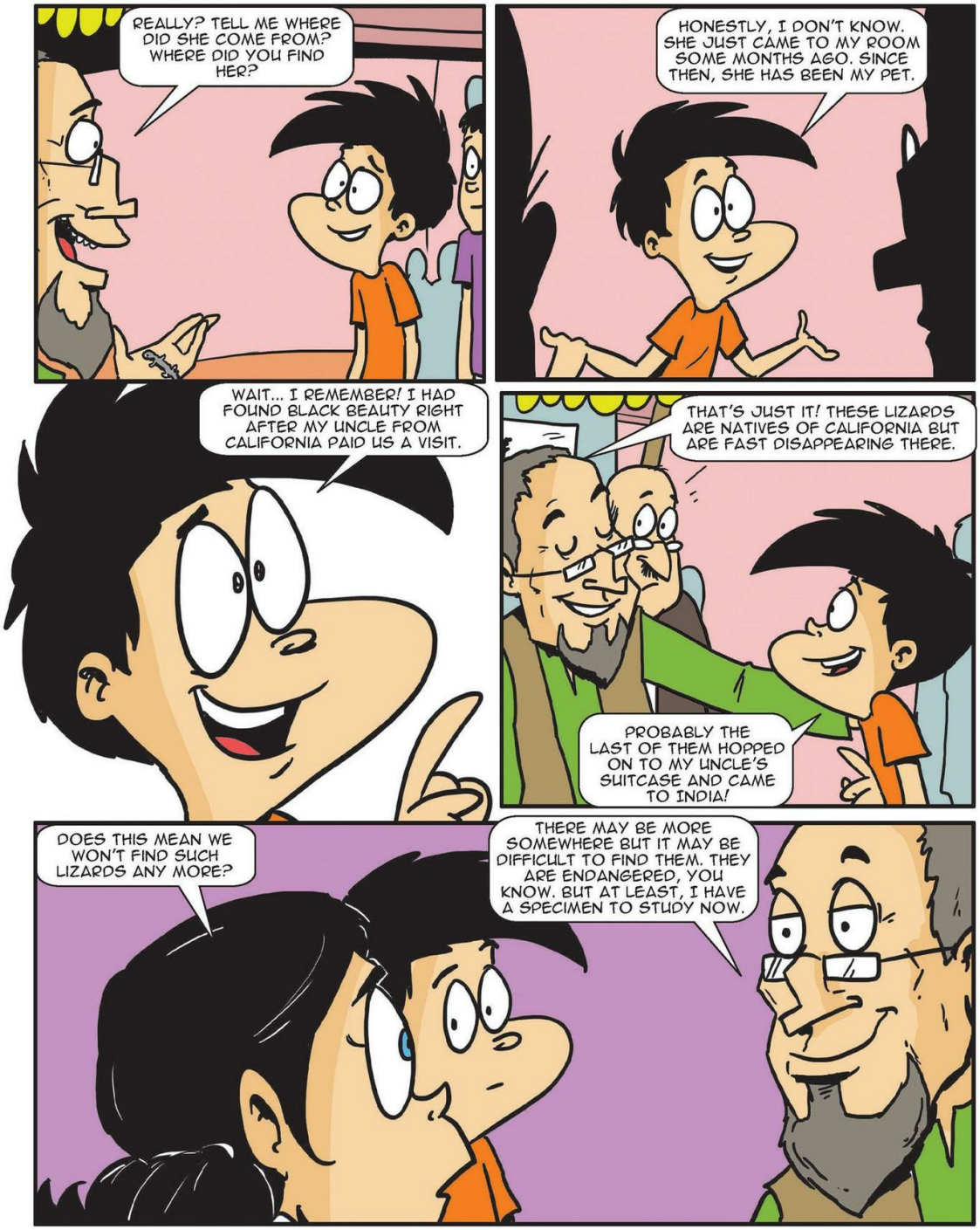
MEANWHILE—
NOW WHERE DID I KEEP THAT FOLDER? I HAVEN'T SEEN IT SINCE YESTERDAY.
...I WILL JUST GO TO JAGGI'S OFFICE AND SEE IF I HAVE LEFT IT THERE BY MISTAKE. I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE IT!
AND SO—
...AND I GUESS I MUST HAVE LEFT MY FOLDER BEHIND ON YOUR TABLE.
IF YOU LEFT IT ON MY TABLE, IT OUGHT TO BE HERE, DON'T WORRY. LET ME JUST ASK SHEKHAR, MY OFFICE BOY...
NO SAHIB, I SAW NO FOLDER ON YOUR DESK BUT...
...I DID SEE AMAR ENTER YOUR ROOM YESTERDAY WHEN YOU WERE OUT.
AMAR!

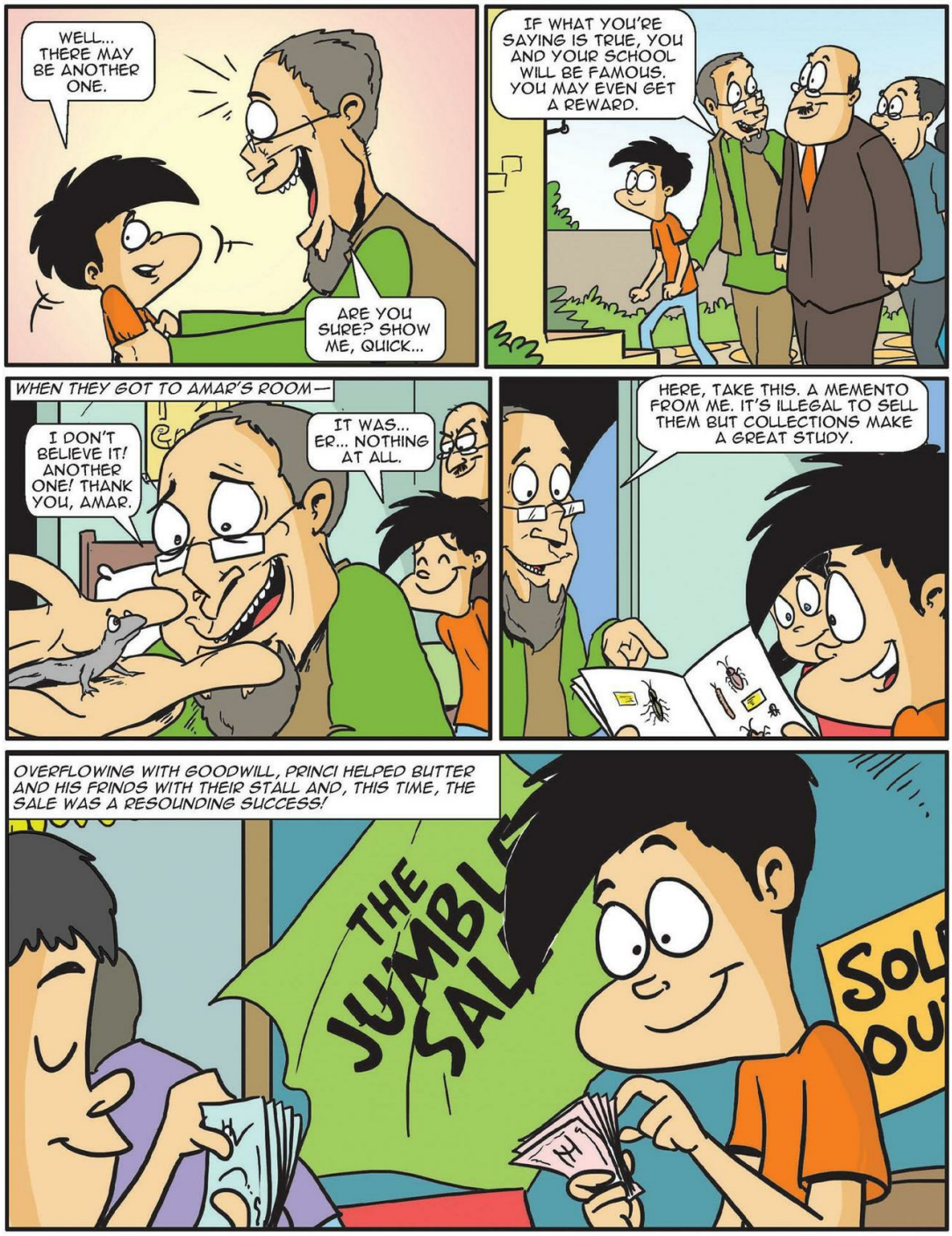
THAT WAS WHEN MR. JAGMOHAN REMEMBERED HIS PROMISE.
I'LL BRING SOMETHING TOMORROW AND KEEP IT HERE ON MY TABLE. YOU CAN TAKE IT EVEN IF I'M NOT AROUND.
OH NO! NOW I GET IT! COME QUICK, MANOHAR! WE MUST HURRY BEFORE YOUR RARE TREASURES GET SOLD!
SOLD? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GET IN THE CAR QUICKLY, I WILL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY. WE MUST HURRY!
...AND I RASHLY PROMISED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE JUMBLE SALE. I GUESS THAT IS WHERE YOUR FOLDER IS.

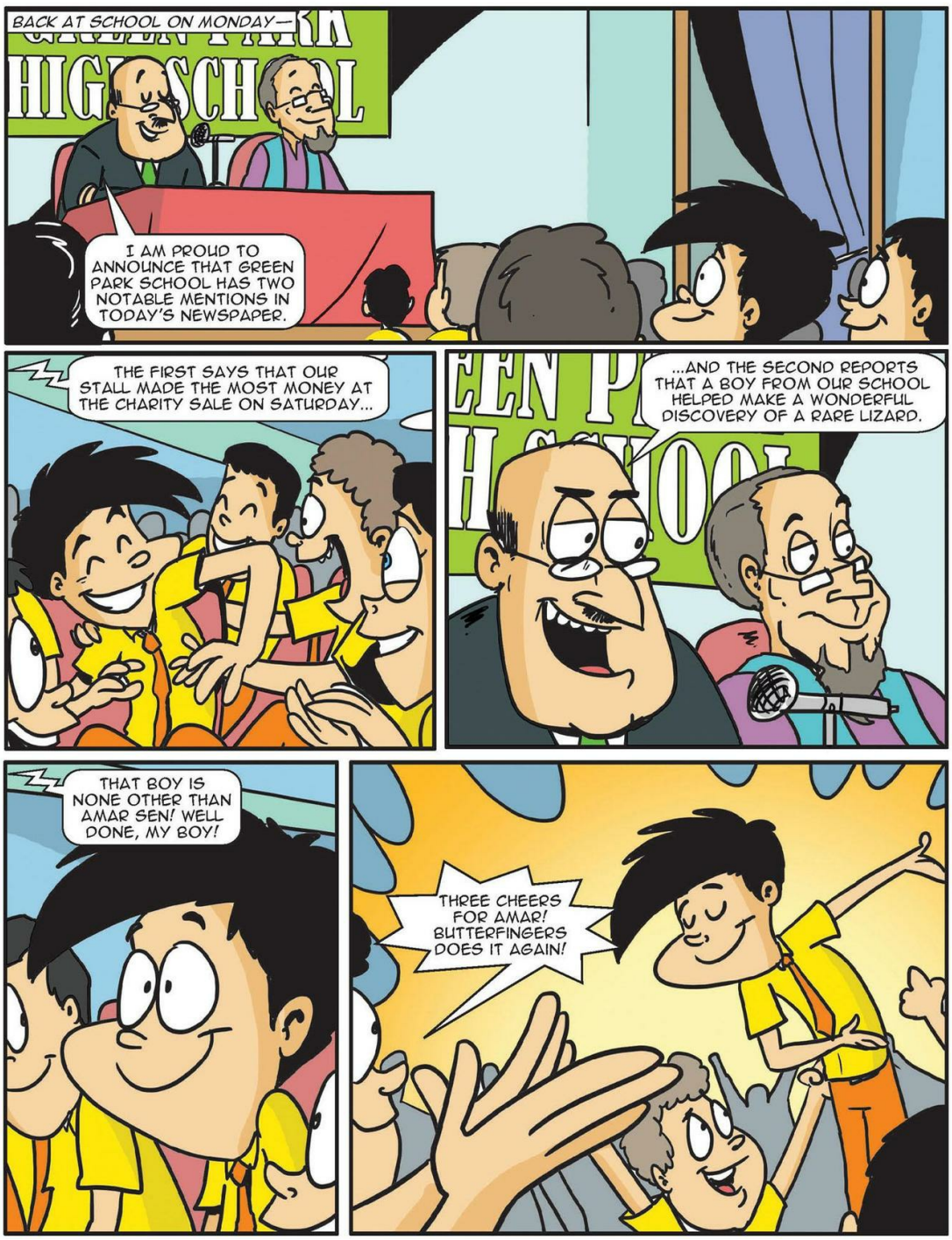
SOON—
GIVE THAT BACK!
I HAVE PAID MONEY FOR IT!
THAT IS MY BOOK!
ANGER MANAGEMENT 101
HEY, STOP! DON'T PICK OUT THE SPECIMENS! SO MANY YEARS OF HARD WORK...!
HEY!
EVERYONE! LET'S JUST GET SOME ORDER HERE! STOP!
AND SOME AMOUNT OF ORDER WAS RESTORED...


THANKFULLY, EVERYONE RECOVERED EVERYTHING...
...EXCEPT KIRAN'S MOTHER, WHO LOST HER BEAUTIFUL BELGIAN CLOCK.
IT WAS NOT THAT BEAUTIFUL. IT WAS OLD AND DUSTY AND BESIDES, MA, I GOT TEN RUPEES FOR IT. I WILL SHARE THAT WITH YOU!
I'D BETTER DO SOME DAMAGE CONTROL! ELSE WE ARE ALL GOING TO BE ROYALLY PULLED UP!
ER... SIR, YOU LOOK TIRED. WHY DON'T I JUST RUSH AND GET SOMETHING COLD FROM MA'S STALL...
SPLENDID IDEA!
MA, GIVE ME TWO GLASSES OF COLD JUICE! PLEASE, MA, QUICKLY!
AMAR, I WAS JUST THINKING OF YOU! THANK YOU FOR PUTTING AN EXTRA JAR OF WATER IN THE FREEZER...
ROLLS
...WE JUST RAN OUT OF ICE FOR OUR JUICE! WHAT CHAOS! LET ME JUST MIX THIS ICE AND GIVE IT TO YOU, YOU LIFESAVER!
HUH?

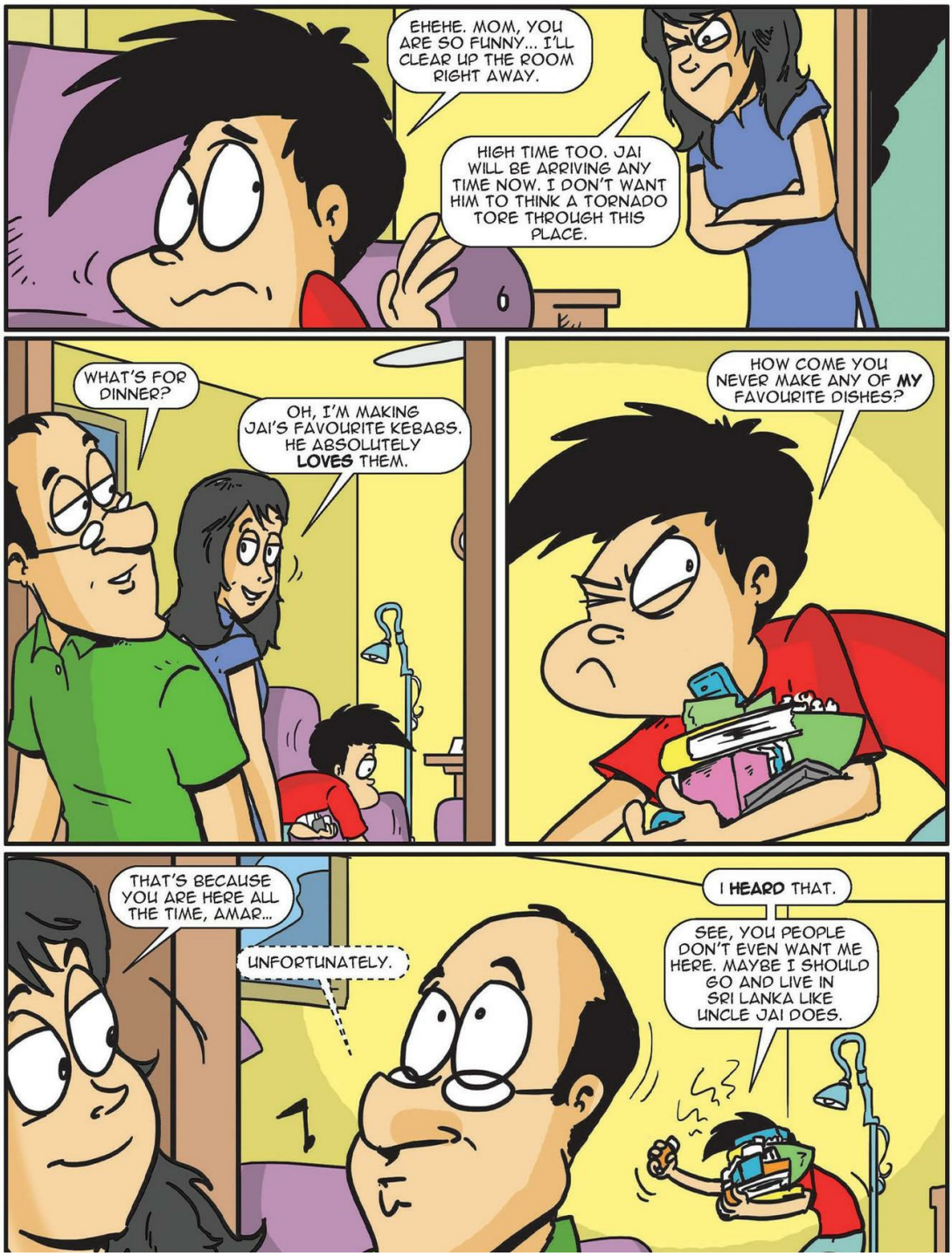

THANKS, MA!
NOW WHY DID THAT JAR LOOK FAMILIAR, I WONDER...!
HERE YOU GO, SIR!
AAAIIIIEEEEEEE! A DEAD LIZARD! HELP, HEEELLLLLPPPP!
OOPS! NOW I KNOW WHY THE JAR LOOKED FAMILIAR! THAT'S BLACK BEAUTY!
UH-OH!
PLOP!
WHERE DID THIS LIZARD COME FROM? HERPETOLOGISTS HAD NEARLY BELIEVED IT HAD BECOME EXTINCT!
THAT WAS MY PET LIZARD, SIR. I CALLED HER BLACK BEAUTY.


REALLY? TELL ME WHERE DID SHE COME FROM? WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?
HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW. SHE JUST CAME TO MY ROOM SOME MONTHS AGO. SINCE THEN, SHE HAS BEEN MY PET.
WAIT... I REMEMBER! I HAD FOUND BLACK BEAUTY RIGHT AFTER MY UNCLE FROM CALIFORNIA PAID US A VISIT.
THAT'S JUST IT! THESE LIZARDS ARE NATIVES OF CALIFORNIA BUT ARE FAST DISAPPEARING THERE.
PROBABLY THE LAST OF THEM HOPPED ON TO MY UNCLE'S SUITCASE AND CAME TO INDIA!
DOES THIS MEAN WE WON'T FIND SUCH LIZARDS ANY MORE?
THERE MAY BE MORE SOMEWHERE BUT IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO FIND THEM. THEY ARE ENDANGERED, YOU KNOW. BUT AT LEAST, I HAVE A SPECIMEN TO STUDY NOW.

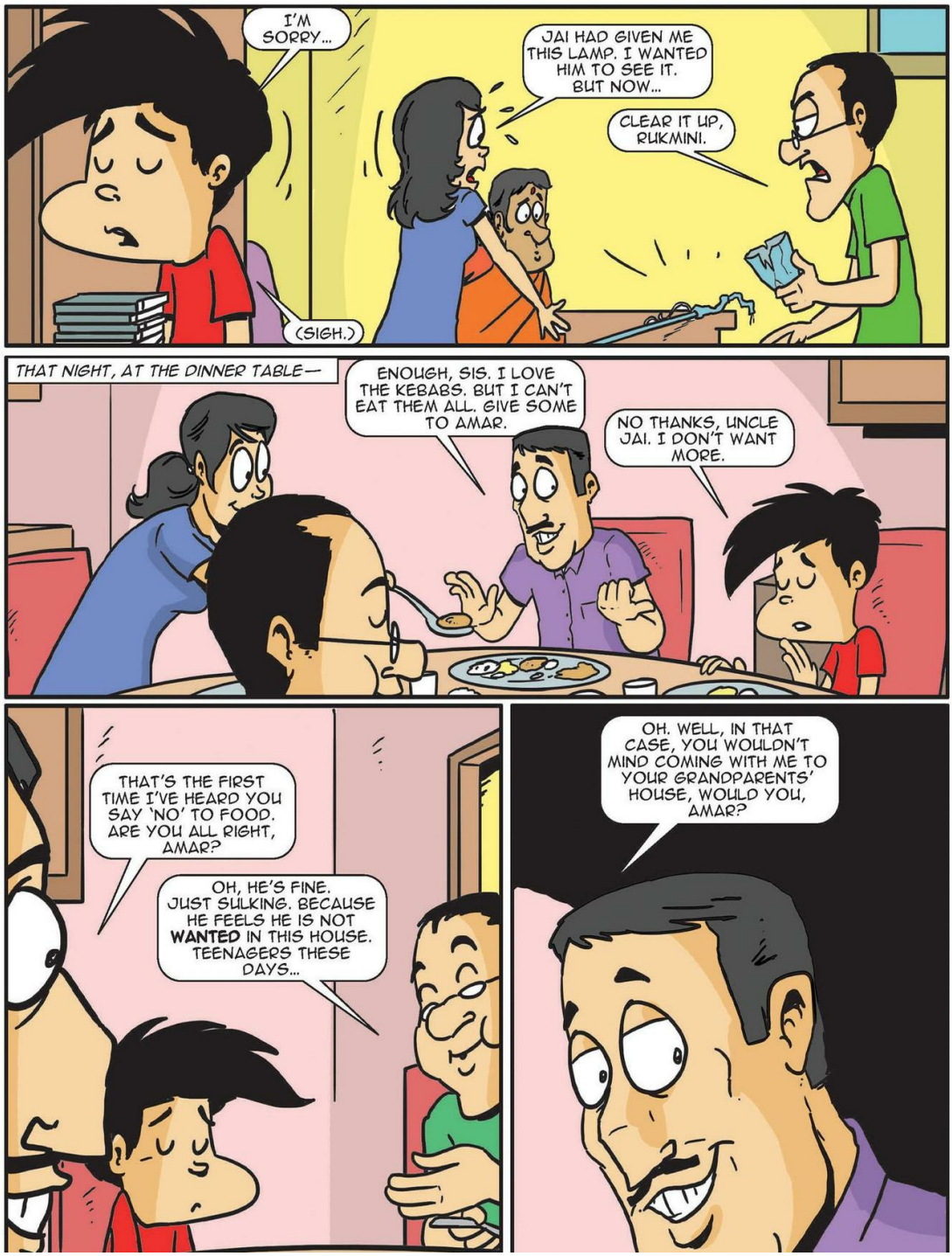

WELL... THERE MAY BE ANOTHER ONE.
ARE YOU SURE? SHOW ME, QUICK...
IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, YOU AND YOUR SCHOOL WILL BE FAMOUS. YOU MAY EVEN GET A REWARD.
WHEN THEY GOT TO AMAR'S ROOM—
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! ANOTHER ONE! THANK YOU, AMAR.
IT WAS... ER... NOTHING AT ALL.
HERE, TAKE THIS. A MEMENTO FROM ME. IT'S ILLEGAL TO SELL THEM BUT COLLECTIONS MAKE A GREAT STUDY.
OVERFLOWING WITH GOODWILL, PRINCI HELPED BUTTER AND HIS FRINDS WITH THEIR STALL AND, THIS TIME, THE SALE WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!
THE JUMBLE SALE
SOLD OUT

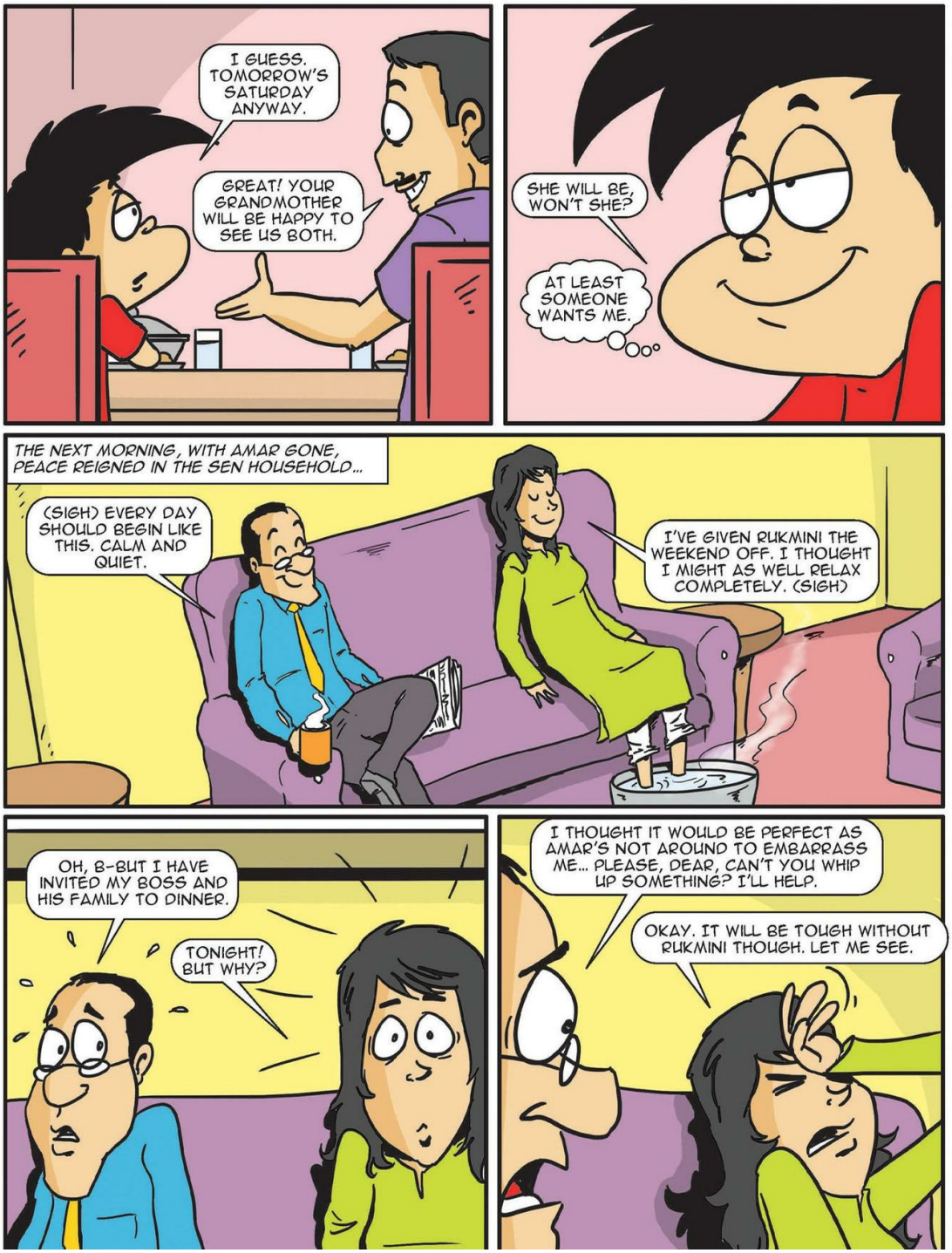

BACK AT SCHOOL ON MONDAY—
I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT GREEN PARK SCHOOL HAS TWO NOTABLE MENTIONS IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPER.
THE FIRST SAYS THAT OUR STALL MADE THE MOST MONEY AT THE CHARITY SALE ON SATURDAY...
...AND THE SECOND REPORTS THAT A BOY FROM OUR SCHOOL HELPED MAKE A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY OF A RARE LIZARD.
THAT BOY IS NONE OTHER THAN AMAR SEN! WELL DONE, MY BOY!
THREE CHEERS FOR AMAR! BUTTERFINGERS DOES IT AGAIN!

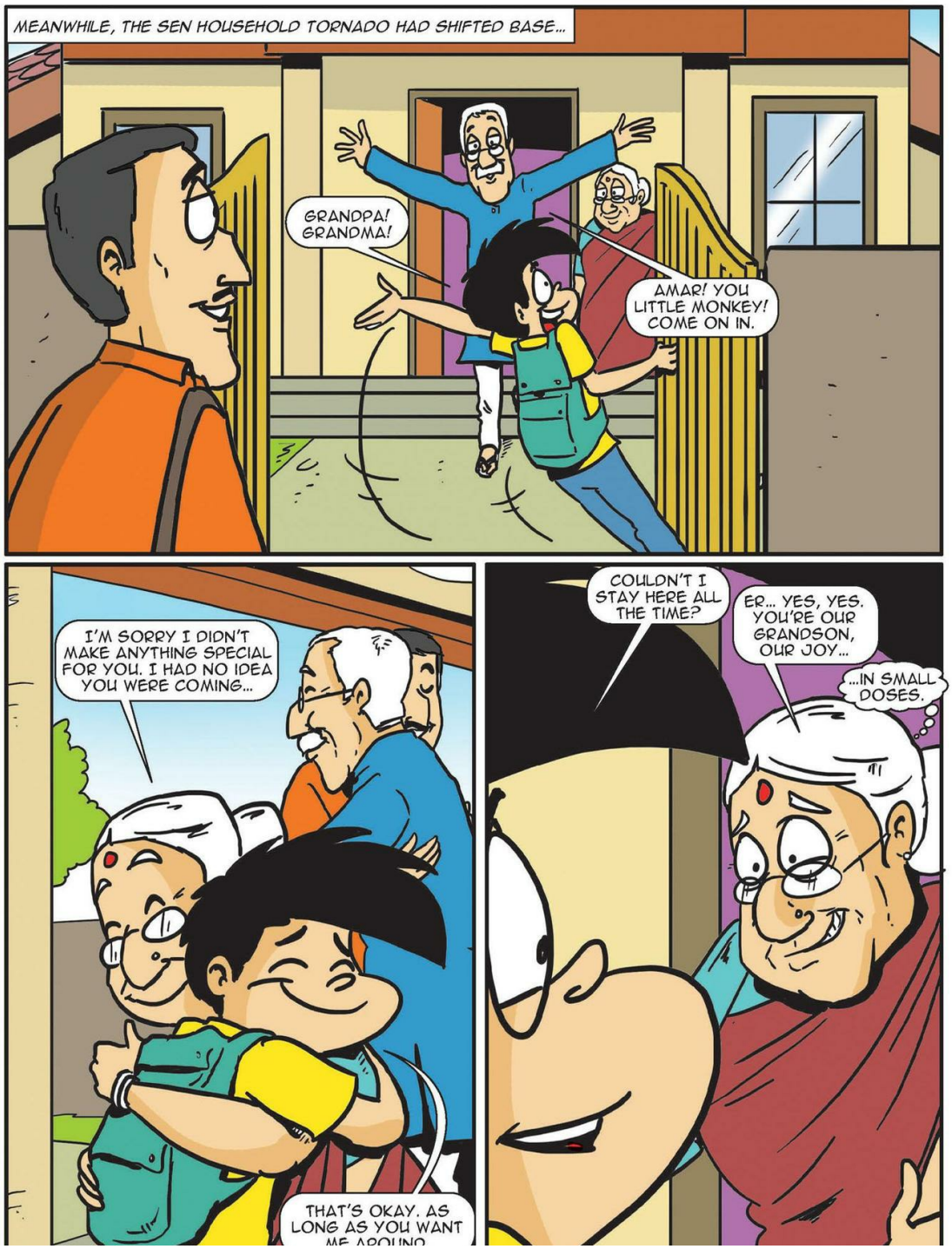
EVERYONE WANTS BUTTERFINGERS...?
THE END
WHAT A HAPPY ENDING! HOW SWEET.
SINCE THIS IS SWEET ENOUGH, HOW ABOUT SKIPPING DESSERT TONIGHT?

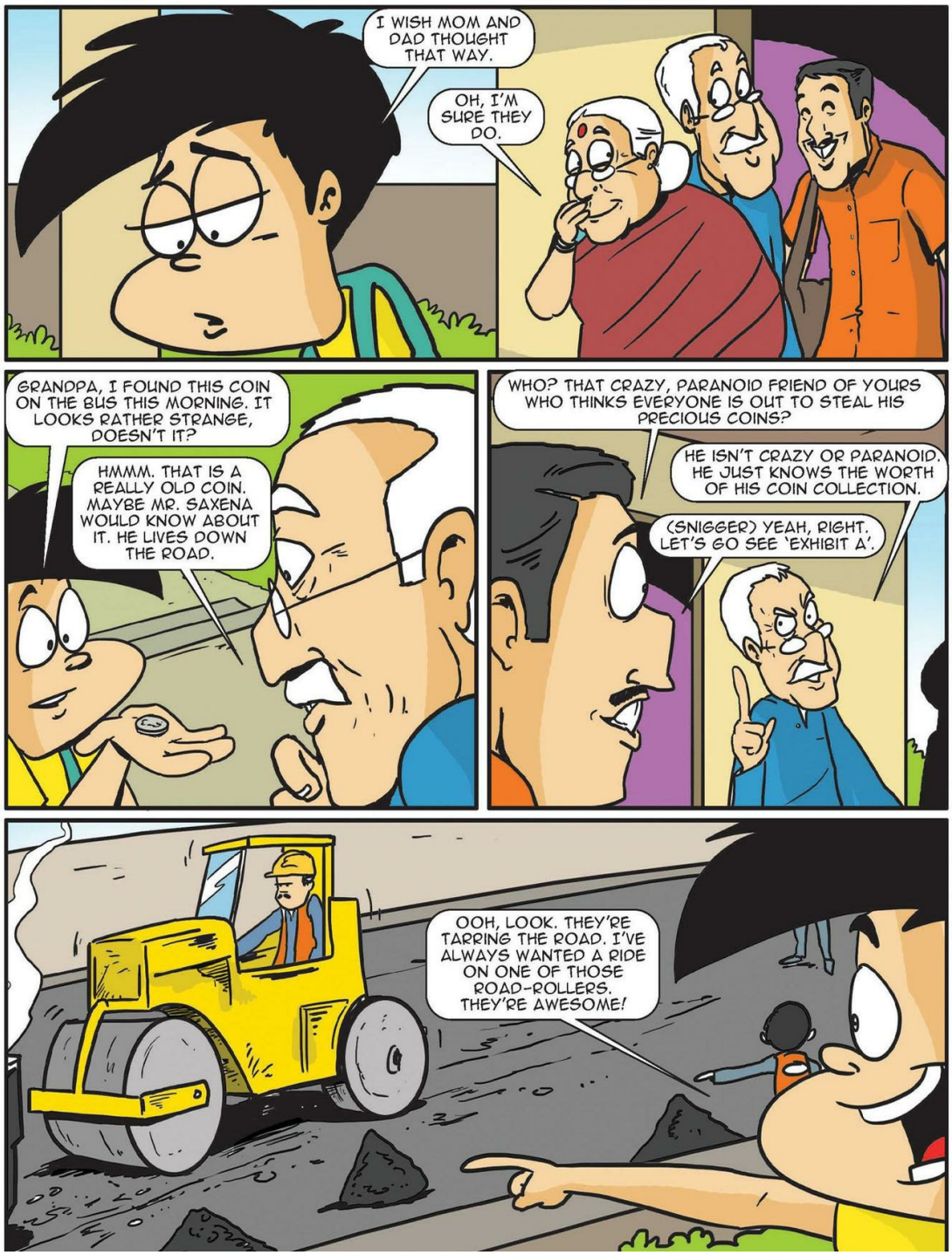

EHEHE. MOM, YOU ARE SO FUNNY... I'LL CLEAR UP THE ROOM RIGHT AWAY.
HIGH TIME TOO. JAI WILL BE ARRIVING ANY TIME NOW. I DON'T WANT HIM TO THINK A TORNADO TORE THROUGH THIS PLACE.
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
OH, I'M MAKING JAI'S FAVOURITE KEBABS. HE ABSOLUTELY **LOVES** THEM.
HOW COME YOU NEVER MAKE ANY OF **MY** FAVOURITE DISHES?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE HERE ALL THE TIME, AMAR...
UNFORTUNATELY.
I **HEARD** THAT.
SEE, YOU PEOPLE DON'T EVEN WANT ME HERE. MAYBE I SHOULD GO AND LIVE IN SRI LANKA LIKE UNCLE JAI DOES.

WOULDN'T THAT BE A WELCOME RESPITE?
THAT'S IT. NO ONE WANTS...
OOPS!
CRASH!
AMAR!
AMAR!
WHAT HAPPENED! WHAT DID AMAR BABA BREAK THIS TIME?
RUKMINI AUNTY! NOT YOU TOO!
NOW YOU KNOW... NO ONE WANTS A BUTTERFINGERS RUNNING AROUND THE HOUSE! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

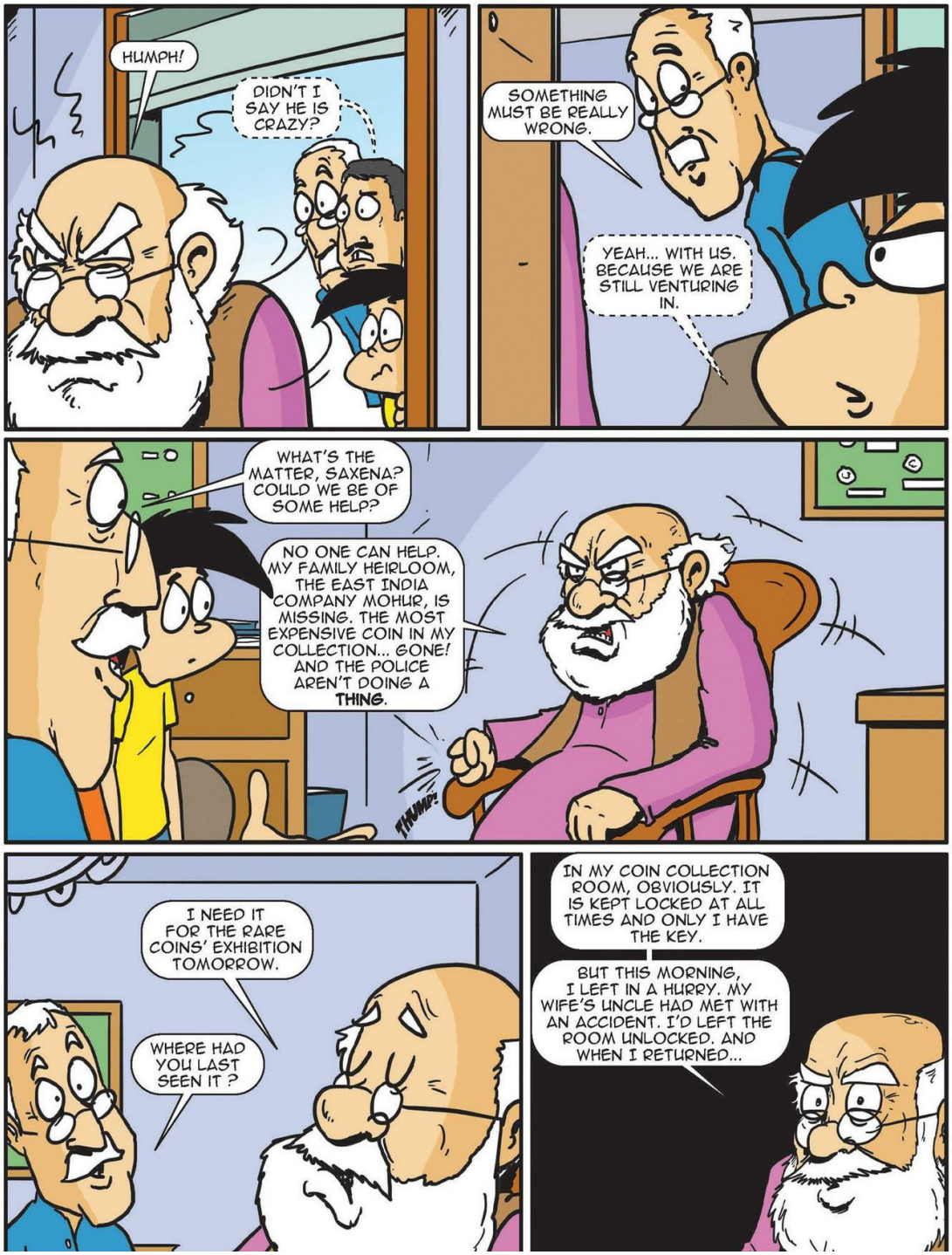

I'M SORRY...
(SIGH.)
JAI HAD GIVEN ME THIS LAMP. I WANTED HIM TO SEE IT. BUT NOW...
CLEAR IT UP, RUKMINI.
THAT NIGHT, AT THE DINNER TABLE—
ENOUGH, SIS. I LOVE THE KEBABS. BUT I CAN'T EAT THEM ALL. GIVE SOME TO AMAR.
NO THANKS, UNCLE JAI. I DON'T WANT MORE.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD YOU SAY 'NO' TO FOOD. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, AMAR?
OH, HE'S FINE. JUST SULKING. BECAUSE HE FEELS HE IS NOT WANTED IN THIS HOUSE. TEENAGERS THESE DAYS...
OH. WELL, IN THAT CASE, YOU WOULDN'T MIND COMING WITH ME TO YOUR GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE, WOULD YOU, AMAR?


I GUESS. TOMORROW'S SATURDAY ANYWAY.
GREAT! YOUR GRANDMOTHER WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE US BOTH.
SHE WILL BE, WON'T SHE?
AT LEAST SOMEONE WANTS ME.
THE NEXT MORNING, WITH AMAR GONE, PEACE REIGNED IN THE SEN HOUSEHOLD...
(SIGH) EVERY DAY SHOULD BEGIN LIKE THIS. CALM AND QUIET.
I'VE GIVEN RUKMINI THE WEEKEND OFF. I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL RELAX COMPLETELY. (SIGH)
OH, B-BUT I HAVE INVITED MY BOSS AND HIS FAMILY TO DINNER.
TONIGHT! BUT WHY?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PERFECT AS AMAR'S NOT AROUND TO EMBARRASS ME... PLEASE, DEAR, CAN'T YOU WHIP UP SOMETHING? I'LL HELP.
OKAY. IT WILL BE TOUGH WITHOUT RUKMINI THOUGH. LET ME SEE.


MEANWHILE, THE SEN HOUSEHOLD TORNADO HAD SHIFTED BASE...
GRANDPA! GRANDMA!
AMAR! YOU LITTLE MONKEY! COME ON IN.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T MAKE ANYTHING SPECIAL FOR YOU. I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE COMING...
THAT'S OKAY. AS LONG AS YOU WANT
COULDN'T I STAY HERE ALL THE TIME?
ER... YES, YES. YOU'RE OUR GRANDSON, OUR JOY...
...IN SMALL DOSES.

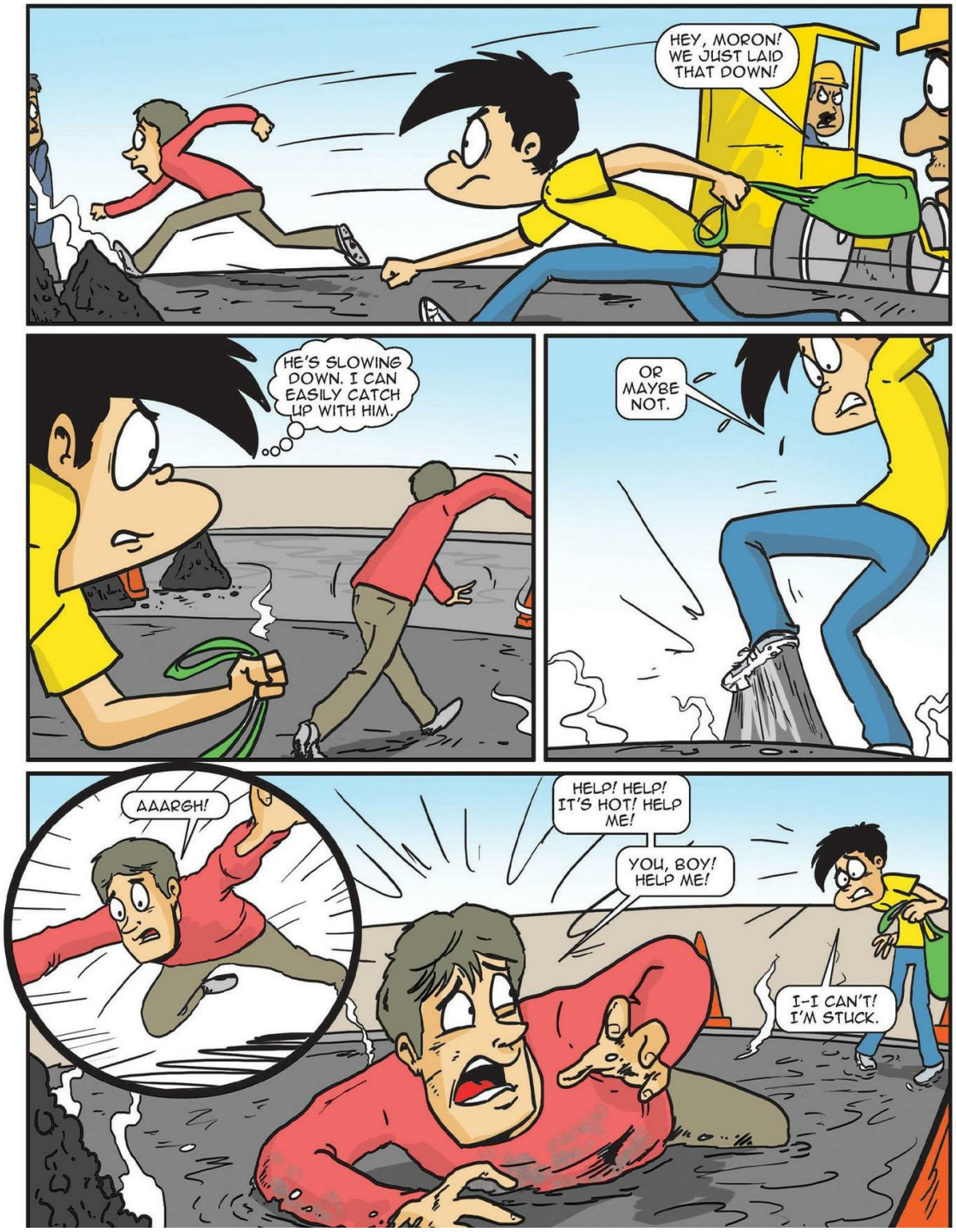

I WISH MOM AND DAD THOUGHT THAT WAY.
OH, I'M SURE THEY DO.
GRANDPA, I FOUND THIS COIN ON THE BUS THIS MORNING. IT LOOKS RATHER STRANGE, DOESN'T IT?
HMMM. THAT IS A REALLY OLD COIN. MAYBE MR. SAXENA WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT. HE LIVES DOWN THE ROAD.
WHO? THAT CRAZY, PARANOID FRIEND OF YOURS WHO THINKS EVERYONE IS OUT TO STEAL HIS PRECIOUS COINS?
HE ISN'T CRAZY OR PARANOID. HE JUST KNOWS THE WORTH OF HIS COIN COLLECTION.
(SNIGGER) YEAH, RIGHT. LET'S GO SEE 'EXHIBIT A'.
OOH, LOOK. THEY'RE TARRING THE ROAD. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A RIDE ON ONE OF THOSE ROAD-ROLLERS. THEY'RE AWESOME!

YES, WELL, THE TAR IS ALSO BURNING HOT AND MOLTEN. SO YOU'D BETTER KEEP AWAY... ESPECIALLY WITH THOSE TATTERS ON YOUR FEET.
WHAT THESE? THEY'RE MY LUCKY SNEAKERS.
WITH THOSE ON YOUR FEET, YOU'RE LUCKY YOU CAN STILL WALK.
HERE WE ARE.
SAXENA
NUMISMATICS EXPERT
NOW, AMAR, PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ANY OF HIS COINS. AND IF YOU DO, DON'T DROP THEM.
OH, GREAT. YOU TOO.
THACK!
WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHERE'S THE POLICE! HAS NO ONE CALLED


HUMPH!
DIDN'T I SAY HE IS CRAZY?
SOMETHING MUST BE REALLY WRONG.
YEAH... WITH US. BECAUSE WE ARE STILL VENTURING IN.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SAXENA? COULD WE BE OF SOME HELP?
NO ONE CAN HELP. MY FAMILY HEIRLOOM, THE EAST INDIA COMPANY MOHUR, IS MISSING. THE MOST EXPENSIVE COIN IN MY COLLECTION... GONE! AND THE POLICE AREN'T DOING A THING.
THUMP!
I NEED IT FOR THE RARE COINS' EXHIBITION TOMORROW.
WHERE HAD YOU LAST SEEN IT ?
IN MY COIN COLLECTION ROOM, OBVIOUSLY. IT IS KEPT LOCKED AT ALL TIMES AND ONLY I HAVE THE KEY.
BUT THIS MORNING, I LEFT IN A HURRY. MY WIFE'S UNCLE HAD MET WITH AN ACCIDENT. I'D LEFT THE ROOM UNLOCKED. AND WHEN I RETURNED...

...ONLY THAT ONE COIN WAS MISSING? WOW. SOMEONE MUST KNOW ITS WORTH.
WATER, SIRS?
THANK YOU... OOPS!
CLANG-CRASH!
ULP. I-I'M SORRY, UNC...
FORGET IT.
IT'S OKAY. I'LL MOP UP THE MESS.
I'LL HELP YOU.
WAS THERE NO ONE AT HOME WHEN THE COIN WENT MISSING?
RAGHU WAS HERE, BUT HE IS MY TRUSTED HELP. AND THERE WAS ANKIT, MY NEPHEW.

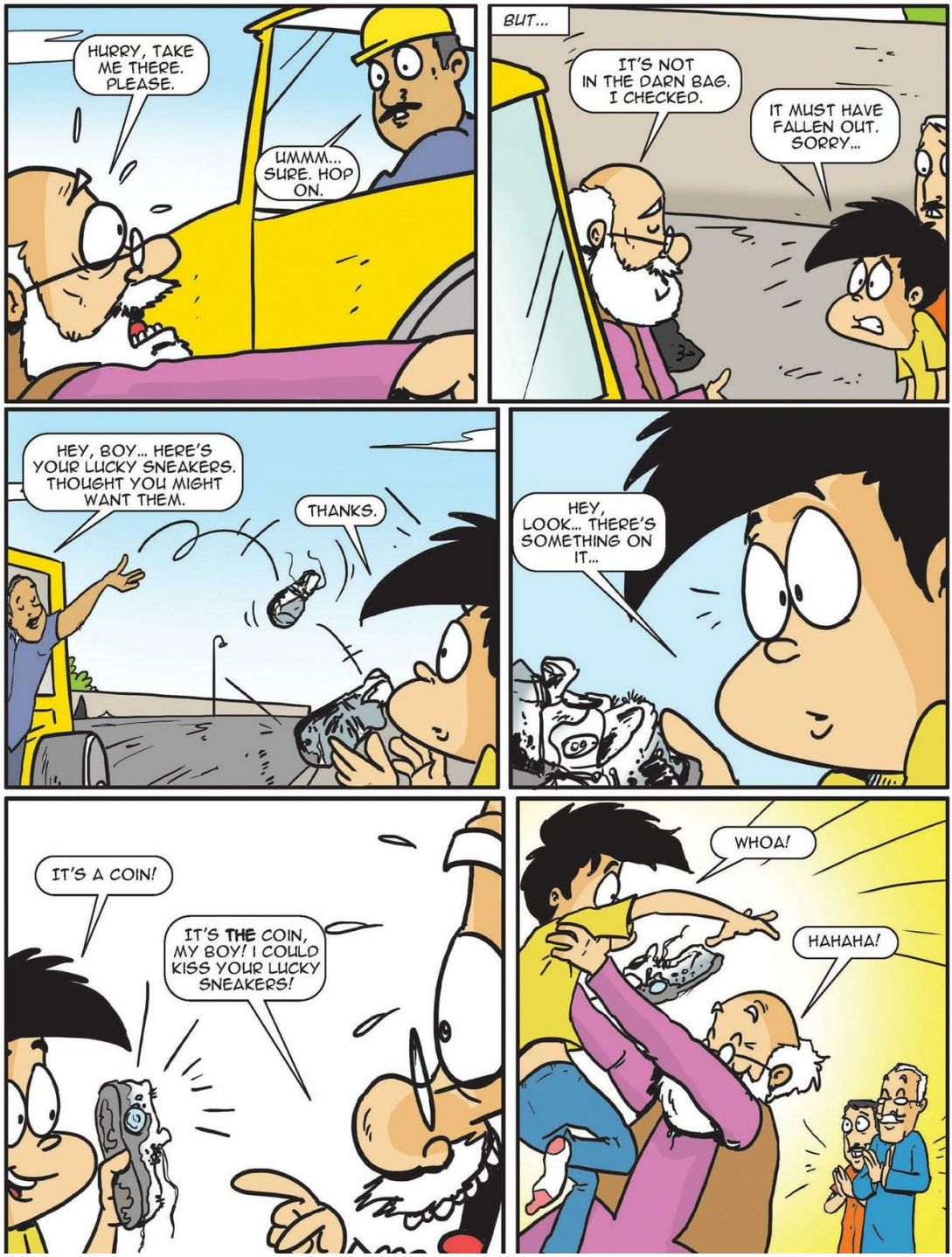
UNCLE, I'M GOING TO MEET A FEW FRIENDS. WILL BE BACK LATE TONIGHT.
OKAY, ANKIT.
HEY... HE FORGOT HIS BAG...
ANKIT... WAIT UP!
HEY! STOP!
WHY ON EARTH IS HE RUNNING?

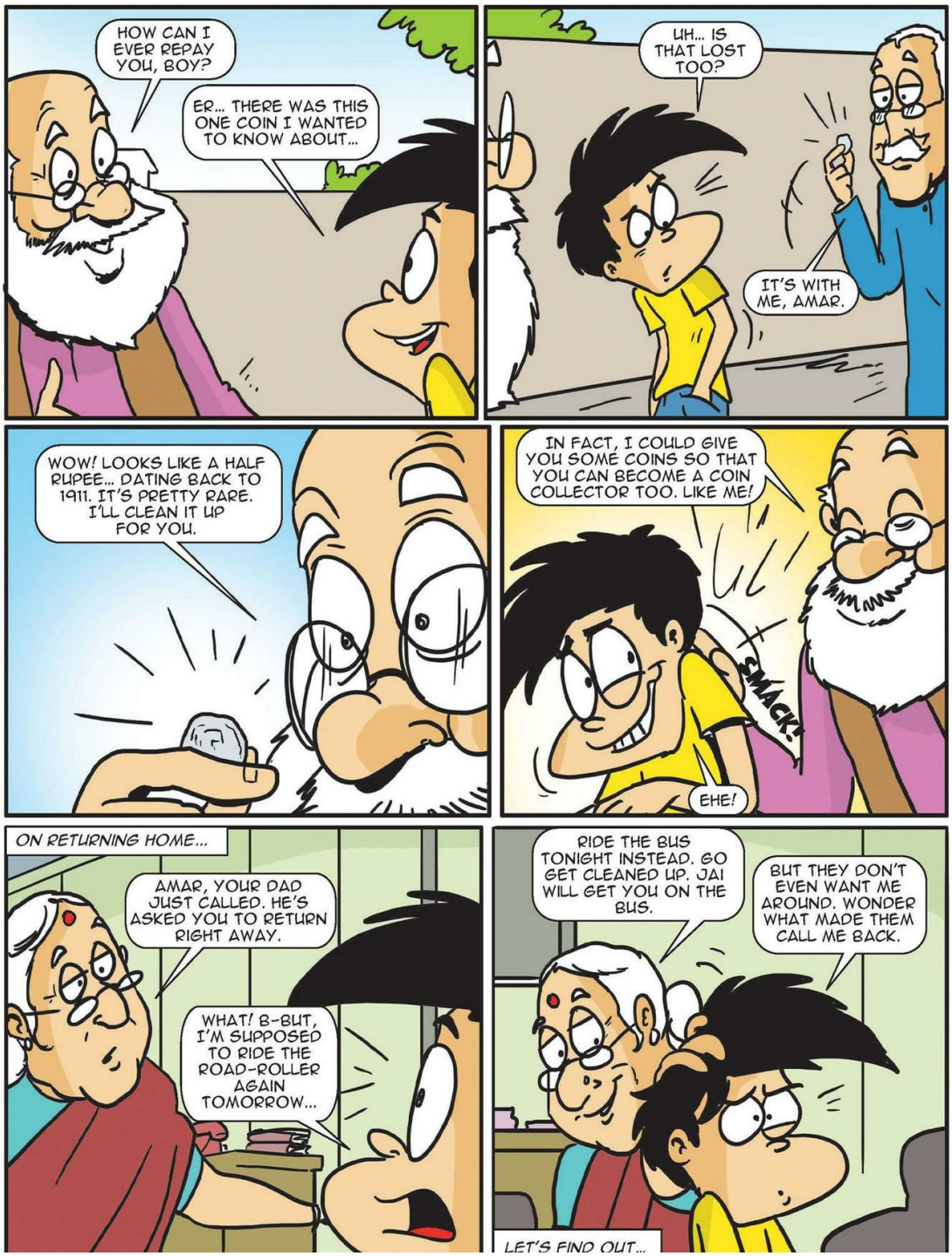

HEY, MORON! WE JUST LAID THAT DOWN!
HE'S SLOWING DOWN. I CAN EASILY CATCH UP WITH HIM.
OR MAYBE NOT.
AAARGH!
HELP! HELP! IT'S HOT! HELP ME!
YOU, BOY! HELP ME!
I-I CAN'T! I'M STUCK.

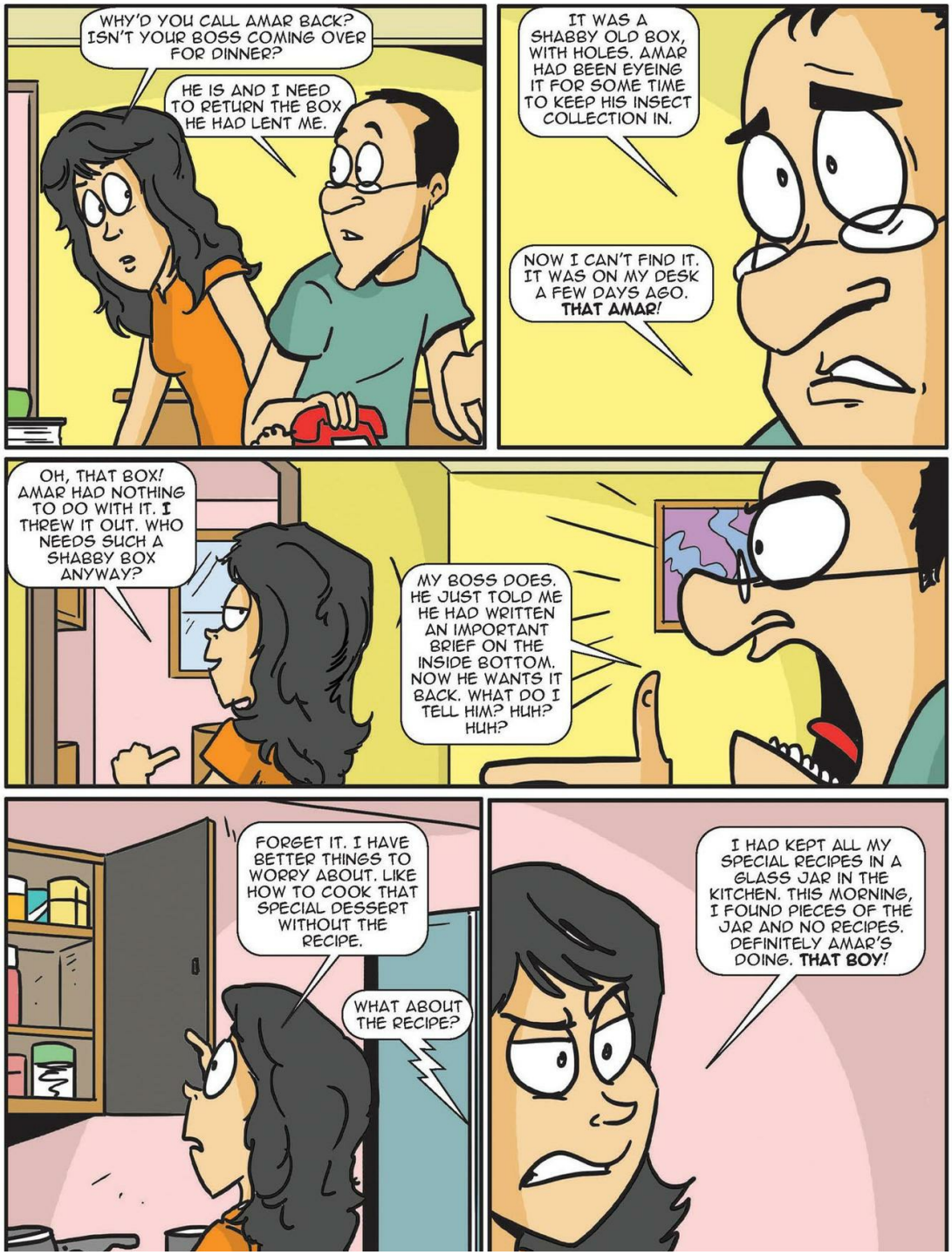
WATCH OUT! BEHIND YOU!
AAAAAAAAA...
...AAAAAAAAA!
PIPE IT DOWN. WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU. GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
TH-THANKS.
(GRUNT)

YOUR TURN, BOY.
OH, AWESOME!
MY LUCKY SNEAKERS!
RRRRRIP!
YEAH, THEY SAVED YOUR FEET FROM NASTY BURNS. WE'LL GET THOSE OUT LATER.
THANKS!
HEY, GRANDPA! HEY, UNCLE JAI! SWEET RIDE, HUH?

AMAR! WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE. MY LUCKY SNEAKERS AND THESE MEN, HERE, SAVED ME.
THANKS, GUYS.
ANKIT, YOU SEEM PRETTY BADLY BURNT.
YES, ANKIT... WHY DID YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY FROM ME LIKE THAT? I WAS JUST TRYING TO RETURN YOUR BAG.
OH, IS THAT IT? I THOUGHT... YOU MUST HAVE FOUND...
FOUND WHAT? MY COIN?
YES! I STOLE IT! YOU'D TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY THAT IT WAS THE MOST EXPENSIVE COIN IN YOUR COLLECTION AND I NEEDED MONEY TO REPAY SOME LOANS. (SOB)
GO HOME NOW. BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE.
WHERE IS ANKIT'S BAG?
I... ER... DROPPED IT WHEN I GOT ON THE ROLLER.

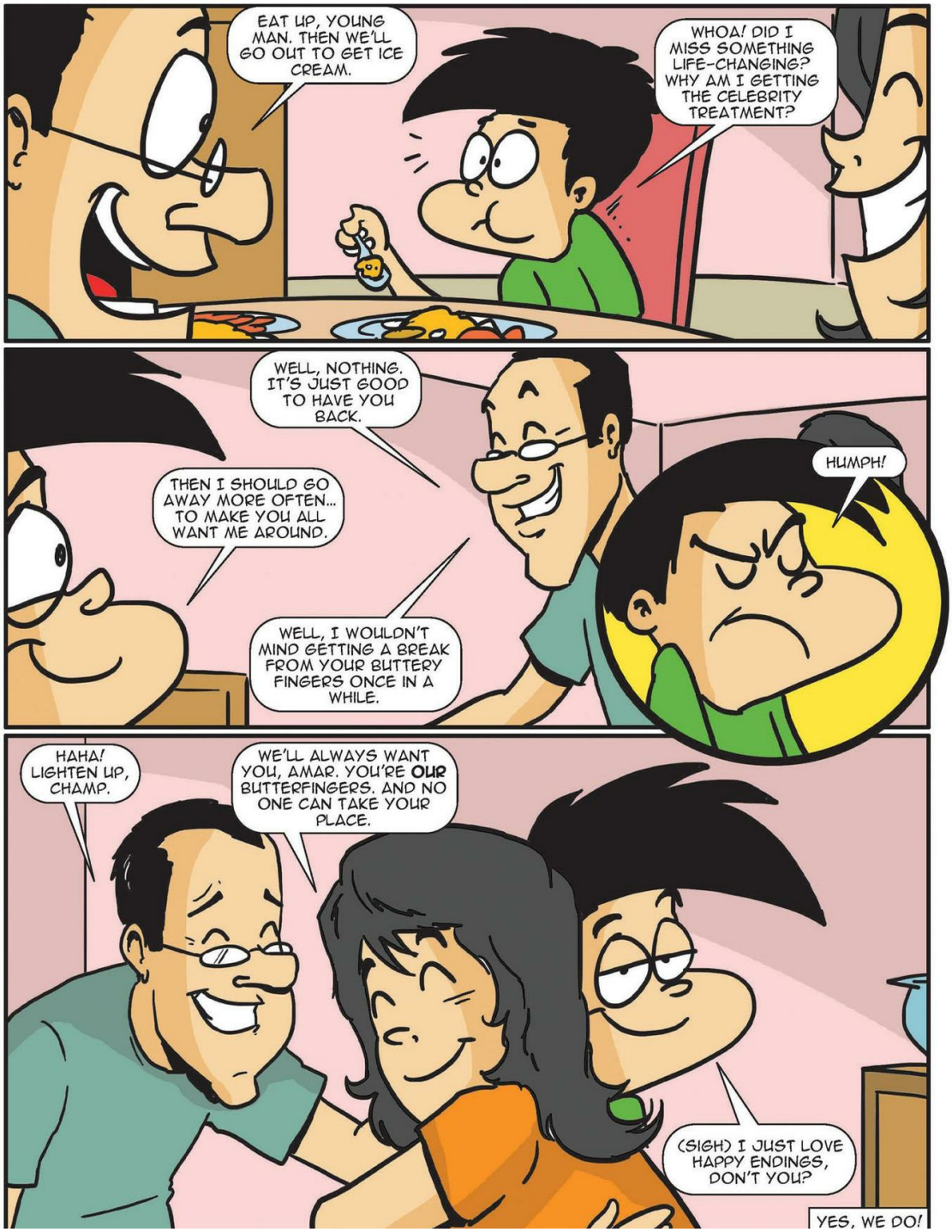

HURRY, TAKE ME THERE. PLEASE.
UMMM... SURE. HOP ON.
BUT...
IT'S NOT IN THE DARN BAG. I CHECKED.
IT MUST HAVE FALLEN OUT. SORRY...
HEY, BOY... HERE'S YOUR LUCKY SNEAKERS. THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT THEM.
THANKS.
HEY, LOOK... THERE'S SOMETHING ON IT...
IT'S A COIN!
IT'S THE COIN, MY BOY! I COULD KISS YOUR LUCKY SNEAKERS!
WHOA!
HAHAHA!


HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU, BOY?
ER... THERE WAS THIS ONE COIN I WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT...
UH... IS THAT LOST TOO?
IT'S WITH ME, AMAR.
WOW! LOOKS LIKE A HALF RUPEE... DATING BACK TO 1911. IT'S PRETTY RARE. I'LL CLEAN IT UP FOR YOU.
IN FACT, I COULD GIVE YOU SOME COINS SO THAT YOU CAN BECOME A COIN COLLECTOR TOO. LIKE ME!
SMACK!
EHE!
ON RETURNING HOME...
AMAR, YOUR DAD JUST CALLED. HE'S ASKED YOU TO RETURN RIGHT AWAY.
WHAT! B-BUT, I'M SUPPOSED TO RIDE THE ROAD-ROLLER AGAIN TOMORROW...
RIDE THE BUS TONIGHT INSTEAD. GO GET CLEANED UP. JAI WILL GET YOU ON THE BUS.
BUT THEY DON'T EVEN WANT ME AROUND. WONDER WHAT MADE THEM CALL ME BACK.
LET'S FIND OUT...


WHY'D YOU CALL AMAR BACK? ISN'T YOUR BOSS COMING OVER FOR DINNER?
HE IS AND I NEED TO RETURN THE BOX HE HAD LENT ME.
IT WAS A SHABBY OLD BOX, WITH HOLES. AMAR HAD BEEN EYEING IT FOR SOME TIME TO KEEP HIS INSECT COLLECTION IN.
NOW I CAN'T FIND IT. IT WAS ON MY DESK A FEW DAYS AGO. **THAT AMAR**!
OH, THAT BOX! AMAR HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. **I** THREW IT OUT. WHO NEEDS SUCH A SHABBY BOX ANYWAY?
MY BOSS DOES. HE JUST TOLD ME HE HAD WRITTEN AN IMPORTANT BRIEF ON THE INSIDE BOTTOM. NOW HE WANTS IT BACK. WHAT DO I TELL HIM? HUH? HUH?
FORGET IT. I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT. LIKE HOW TO COOK THAT SPECIAL DESSERT WITHOUT THE RECIPE.
WHAT ABOUT THE RECIPE?
I HAD KEPT ALL MY SPECIAL RECIPES IN A GLASS JAR IN THE KITCHEN. THIS MORNING, I FOUND PIECES OF THE JAR AND NO RECIPES. DEFINITELY AMAR'S DOING. **THAT BOY**!

THAT AMAR BABA.
RUKMINI, WASN'T TODAY SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR DAY OFF?
IT WAS, BUT I CAN'T FIND THE ORANGE AND GREEN PAIR OF TROUSERS I HAD BOUGHT FOR MY SONS. AMAR BABA HAD SAID THEY WERE THE RIGHT COLOUR FOR HIS CLASS DRAMA COSTUME...
I'M GLAD YOU CALLED HIM BACK. FIRST MY JAR AND NOW RUKMINI'S TROUSERS. THAT BOY SURE HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.
ER... AMAR DIDN'T TAKE THOSE PANTS. I DID.
WHAT?!
I THOUGHT THEY WERE AMAR'S AND TOOK IT FOR THE CHARITY DRIVE IN MY OFFICE. I'LL GET THEM BACK TOMORROW. THEY'RE STILL IN MY DRAWER.
WELL, THAT STILL LEAVES MY JAR.
WHAT JAR? YOUR RECIPE JAR? OH, I BROKE THAT ONE BY MISTAKE.

BUT I PUT THE RECIPES SAFELY IN AN EMPTY BOX I'D FOUND IN THE DUSTBIN... MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE.
HERE!
THAT'S MY BOX! THANK HEAVENS!
SO... THAT'S THAT THEN.
TRING! TRING!
WE'VE BEEN RATHER UNFAIR TO AMAR, HAVEN'T WE? BLAMING HIM FOR EVERY LITTLE THING THAT GOES WRONG...
LET'S MAKE IT UP TO HIM. BY MAKING ALL HIS FAVOURITE FOOD.
I'D LOVE TO. BUT, AMAR'S DAD'S BOSS IS COMING TO DINNER...
WELL, HE ISN'T. HE JUST CALLED AND CANCELLED. WHICH MEANS...
HERE'S YOUR FAVOURITE BUTTER CHICKEN, AMAR.
AND YOUR FAVOURITE SAMOSAS.


EAT UP, YOUNG MAN. THEN WE'LL GO OUT TO GET ICE CREAM.
WHOA! DID I MISS SOMETHING LIFE-CHANGING? WHY AM I GETTING THE CELEBRITY TREATMENT?
WELL, NOTHING. IT'S JUST GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK.
THEN I SHOULD GO AWAY MORE OFTEN... TO MAKE YOU ALL WANT ME AROUND.
WELL, I WOULDN'T MIND GETTING A BREAK FROM YOUR BUTTERY FINGERS ONCE IN A WHILE.
HUMPH!
HAHA! LIGHTEN UP, CHAMP.
WE'LL ALWAYS WANT YOU, AMAR. YOU'RE **OUR** BUTTERFINGERS. AND NO ONE CAN TAKE YOUR PLACE.
(SIGH) I JUST LOVE HAPPY ENDINGS, DON'T YOU?
YES, WE DO!

THREE CHEERS FOR BUTTERFINGERS!

THE CUTELY CHAOTIC BUTTERFINGERS, AKA AMAR SEN OF GREEN PARK SCHOOL, HAS TAKEN ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COOK UP A JUMBLE SALE FOR A CHARITY EVENT. BUT PUTTING 'BUTTER' AND 'JUMBLE' TOGETHER IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER. WILL EVERYONE AT THE SALE SURVIVE IT?

+ BONUS STORY

EVERYONE WANTS BUTTERFINGERS...?

...DO THEY REALLY? THIS IS THE DOUBT THAT'S CLOUDING BUTTER'S USUALLY-SUNNY EXISTENCE. NO ONE AT HOME SEEMS TO HAVE ANY SYMPATHY FOR HIM. UNHAPPY AND DEJECTED, BUTTER LEAVES TO SPEND SOME TIME AT HIS GRANDPARENTS' PLACE, WHERE SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT CALLS FOR ALL HIS BUTTERFINGERED LUCK. WILL HE COME THROUGH?